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AND

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### REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

*Prison Discipline and Secondary Punishments. Remarks on the First Report of the Inspectors of Prisons; with some Observations on the Reformation of Criminals.* By P. Laurie, Junior, a Magistrate of the County of Middlesex. 8vo. pp. 64. London, 1837. Whitaker and Co.

MR. LAURIE's preceding pamphlet, in which he demonstrated the absurdities perpetrated under the Grand Jury System, displayed so much practical acquaintance with subjects of the kind, and so much sound judgment and ability in appreciating and discussing them, that we were disposed to give our earnest attention to any remarks of his, on any matter connected with the administration of the laws. Nor have we been disappointed in our expectations by the perusal of these pages; which seem, to us, to carry conviction with them on the most important points involved in the inquiry, and to designate the right paths for escape from a considerable number and amount of errors—some of them not the less injurious from the purely benevolent feelings and good intentions of their patrons. We are not among those who cry, "Humbug!" "Cant!" "Tom-foolery!" &c. &c. &c. at every mistaken pursuit or project we see started in our world of curious bustle; because we believe that, out of the sphere of selfish time-servers and hypocrites, there are many of the best-hearted persons living, who enter into such and worse schemes with the most disinterested and benevolent views; but we are not unaware that they are too often the tools wherewithal rogues and knaves do their own work, and that weak good men are, when misled into enthusiasm, the most mischievous and efficient agents for evil. A folio *Tartuffe* would not be too much to expose the vast extent and ramifications of the state of things thus produced: Mr. Laurie has taken up a single feature, and to that we will, for the present, confine ourselves. In his opinion, the main errors of the Prison Inspectors "are, supposing that crime is to be put down inside instead of outside a prison; that thieves carry on their operations singly, instead of in a necessary combination; and, above all, that after a reformation, real or simulated, has been effected by their discipline, that nothing is required, beyond a prisoner's own exertions, to return to a course of honest industry."\* Before turning over the pages before us, it may be both just and expedient to say that there is not a political sentiment or bias to be found in them; and that they are entirely directed to the investigation of the interesting matter at issue—interesting alike to statistic policy, and to human sympathy. The desideratum appears to be, to adopt such a system of prison discipline as will, so far as it can operate, deter from crime; but do not, in attempting this, rely too much on it for cure, when infinitely so much more may be done by prevention; nor introduce a

spurious humanity, cruel and abhorrent, whilst pretending to wisdom and kind consideration. To rot in gaol was a phrase importuning much of misery—it was, and is yet (though not so generally), literally truth; but to rot in gaol, as far as we can gather from Reports and descriptions, would be happiness to the new plans for reclaiming prisoners by silence and solitude. Heaven! that men, after the milder horrors of thumbscrews, bootkisks, and racks, have yielded to the indignation of the world, should dare or think to doom their fellow-creatures to these lingering torments—and under the name of reform and philanthropy, too—is a proof how grossly we may be deluded by a favourite theory. We believe, on the authority of every experienced medical practitioner, that mere confinement, with its daily hours of exercise, produces such an effect upon the frame, that the wretch subjected to it for two years (and often for less time) is never fit for laborious occupation again or industrious habits. And, to this terrible calamity, the voiceless tongue, and the soundless cell, are, in *mercy*, proposed to be superadded! It is true, the majority of criminals are not of fine feelings nor sensitive nerves, but they are human; and, to resist such appalling infliction, without the utter extinction of reason and sense, they must be of iron—monsters. Then we come, with Mr. Laurie, to the task of the result. Even suppose them not to perish, but to survive, and, instead of torpor, idiocy, or distraction, to be reduced to a salutary dread of future offence and punishment, how do you provide for the beneficial change? What do you do with them? You send them stupefied, branded, penniless, friendless, into the struggling social throng; and you wonder if they relapse into crime. God help them! what can they do? even beggary is against the law. Let them be honest, and lie down, and die of starvation!

The modern course to these ends is well painted by our author:—

"The act (that for investigating the state of prisons), was founded on the views of the select committee of the House of Lords appointed to inquire into the state of gaols, &c., who took great pains to examine a host of witnesses; and their reports are, certainly, not altogether undeserving of examination, were it only to shew, that their lordships have been, in general, as fortunate in their witnesses as parliamentary committees and commissioners generally are; when the examiner leads and the witness follows with a degree of boldness and faith extremely edifying—their unanimity is wonderful—and opposition is equally unknown; unless, by some chance, a witness can be stony silent; when this does take place, though he may not exactly be 'quoted down,' he is generally relieved from any lengthened audience, and not more courteously than expeditiously dismissed."

Similar proceedings make a farce and a tribunal of wrong of almost every parliamentary committee, and loudly does their constitution call for reform. But we must not digress. Mr. Laurie goes on to shew, that

"Any extended system of prison discipline cannot be carried into effect on prisoners before trial. That the penitentiary system has failed in America, and will be equally unsuccessful in this country, when applied to convicts. That the main cause of crime in this country is not to be attributed to the contamination of gaols, and the numerous chances of escaping conviction, and the uncertainty of punishment. That solitary confinement is too inhuman and dangerous a punishment to be tolerated in a Christian country. That the schemes recommended in the inspectors' report involve an outlay of many

thousands annually; and the results of this outlay must be, if not happily abortive, most mischievous. And that transportation, both in a moral and political point of view, is the most efficacious, rational, and cheap mode of punishment, and should be more extensively enforced."

Into his reasoning on these heads, we have not space to follow him: we will, however, quote some striking passages. Thus, on the re-education of convicts, he observes:—

"America seems, by universal consent, to be the only country where the science of prison discipline is understood; and their not having any colonies to which they can transport convicts has, perhaps, been the means of compelling greater attention to the management of their prisons; but it is remarkable that, in a country where there are so many outlets for the population, where labour is so valuable, that crime should not decrease; that, at the very fountain-head of the penitentiary system, the lauded reformation, which, we are told, is so extensive, should not have effected some visible diminution in the number of criminals. But it is notorious that the thing has failed; that, where a man can earn as much for his labour in a day as he could here in a week, he braves the terrors of the penitentiaries; and that crime is daily increasing. \* \* \* \* \* This

evidence (evidence quoted in preceding pages) of stubborn facts and callous experience, must shake the hopes of the present system of reformation of juvenile offenders. Institutions like the *Philanthropic and Refuge for the Destitute*, pure and excellent as the intentions of their founders would do more good, if they could come earlier to the rescue; if they were more of a preventive than a curative description; if, in short, they could meet the causes of juvenile crime pointed out in the evidence of Mr. Wontner: but, in the present shape, whether the result of private benevolence, or the creation of government extravagance, to anticipate any substantial benefit from them is like neglecting the leak, and expecting to keep the ship free by baling. And it may be doubted whether there is not often more chance of reclaiming a man of thirty or forty than a boy from ten to eighteen years of age. \* \* \* \* \* The science which will confer the greatest benefit on society is not that which teaches us how to reform a prisoner, but that which shews us how to prevent his becoming a prisoner at all. The main-spring of a criminal's conduct is *Hope*, and the *Counterbalance* must, therefore, be *Pest*; and his ruling principle, *Chance*, must be shaken by *Certainty*. It is in vain to attribute the commission of crime to a nicely weighed consideration of the consequences awaiting the criminal, while those consequences are allowed to remain so uncertain. \* \* \* \* \*

"From the parliamentary returns, it is ascertained, that of the whole number of persons committed for trial, in England and Wales, one-third are acquitted;\* so that, in addition to the chance of not being detected—the chance of there not being any prosecution—the chance of not being finally committed—the chance of the prosecutor not appearing—there is the chance, for every prisoner, of his being the third person to be acquitted; and even, if he has such 'bad luck' as to be convicted, there is the chance of indulgence in prison, and the chance of mitigation of punishment. This is the root of the mischief: the Old Bailey is the great criminal lottery-office, where is one acquittal prize for every two conviction blanks; and, until this is remedied, all the prison inspectors in Europe may rest assured, that the hope of escape will baffle all their ingenious plans for detection. The facility for concealment in large towns, and the chance of non-detection, from the general inefficiency of the provincial police, are the greatest encouragements to crime; and a good constabulary force, which would allot one resident constable to every parish throughout the kingdom, under the control of the magistrates of each division, would secure lines of communication of competent and vigilant officers, which would greatly facilitate the apprehension of offenders, and, by the greater certainty of detection, conduce to the suppression of crime. The next improvement would be to diminish the number of acquittals, and this, not by increasing the number of convictions, but by lessening the numbers brought to trial; and this can only be done effectually by the abolition of the grand jury, and the establishment of a public prosecutor, or some other permanent tribunal, like the *Chambre du Conseil* in France, to review the commitments of the magistrates, and discharge those immediately, of whose conviction

\* Number of persons committed for trial, from 1830 to 1832 (England and Wales).  
Acquitted ..... 127,910  
Similar return (London and Middlesex) ..... 37,070  
Committed for trial ..... 24,584  
Acquitted ..... 6,187  
(Parl. Pap. No. 1, 1833.)

\* Mr. Laurie justifies himself in these statements by quoting the evidence of Mr. Russell, Mr. Crawford, and others; but it is only justice to the body of Prison Inspectors, to notice that their individual reports and opinions are widely different from each other. They have all gathered much information from their inspection of gaols; but they certainly come to very dissimilar conclusions, both as to practice and remedies.—*Ed. L. G.*

there could be no probability, from defective evidence. This is no visionary experiment, for the system has been in full operation in France, since the promulgation of the Code Pénal, only a little more than two centuries, and the result in that country is, that from the careful investigation of the cases of the prisoners before trial, only one in twenty-three is acquitted on the final trial, and a large number, instead of being kept in gaol on an average three months, as they are in the counties in England, who would have been acquitted from defective evidence, were at once discharged; and thus, avoided contamination without the clumsy and cruel expedient of solitary cells. The last improvement would be, to make the execution of the sentence more certain. Any one who has had an opportunity of witnessing the hateful mode of sentencing batches of prisoners, at the Old Bailey, will have noticed the indifference of those sentenced to seven years' transportation, which arises solely from the knowledge, that this is, of all the sentences past, the least likely to be carried into effect: there is, however, one exception to this, and it deserves notice, were it only to express a hope, that it will not be allowed much longer to disgrace the nation, to count and offend the feelings of every one who has any regard for morality, or the forms of justice; and that is, the hideous mockery of passing the awful sentence of death upon masses of prisoners, twelve times a year—it being all the while perfectly understood, that not one will ever suffer the penalty. This scene, which takes place on the last day of every Session, if it were not serious from the injurious effects it produces on that class it is intended to alarm, would be ludicrous. Mr. Cope marches his troop of ten or fifteen 'capitaines' to the front of the dock, where they are made to file and dress with all the precision of a crack regiment, and having been asked a question which they are not expected to answer (for arrest of judgment), the sheriff's yeoman makes proclamation for silence. The court and galleries are always crowded with the friends and associates of the various convicts, who have come to hear the sentences of their companions, and take a lesson for their own judgment when it comes to their turn to figure at the bar. For, at the present, unless it be some country-cousins of some of the condemned individuals attending on the court, and if so, they are, in all probability, the only persons who evince any concern or agitation on the occasion: the old gentleman may, perhaps, breathe a little harder and quicker than usual, and the daughters may unfurl their pocket-handkerchiefs and make arrangements for fainting—but every one else is calm and composed. The Recorder then addresses the convicts, who employ the time in exchanging signals with their friends in the galleries; and, it is to do the present learned officer but justice to say, that his observations on such occasions are always judicious and impressive, unaccompanied by those 'windy suspirations and dejected 'bavour of the visage' which are sometimes thrown away on such occasions. The address concluded, sentence is passed in the usual way; and the silence, which had hitherto been broken only by the measured cadences of the judge, or perhaps the clinking of gold chains and the rustling of garments, is terminated by the somorous 'Amen' of the ordinary; and the exhibition concludes to the complete satisfaction of all parties concerned, and the great edification of the under-graduate thieves in the galleries, who think it a very fine thing to be made of such importance."

We are sorry that we cannot go more at length into this important and able exposition. Mr. Laurie's arguments in favour of transportation are unanswerable, both on the score of economy and humanity; and we trust his pamphlet will receive that consideration, from government and the country, to which it is so eminently entitled.

*Picciola; or, Captivity Captive.* By M. de Saintine. 2 vols. 12mo. London, 1837. Colburn.

THIS is a very original and imaginative tale: a strain or two too metaphysical, perhaps, for novel writing, with an extra spice of botany (unavoidable, however, from the nature of the design), and a turn of French sentiment rather beyond, or unlike, the English style; but certainly not carried to a pitch to offend good taste. Such, in few words, are the general characteristics of M. de Saintine's work; a work which throws great interest over the incidents of a very slight and simple plot,—developing almost a single idea with much feeling and felicity; and possesses the rare merit of being altogether different from the prevailing Parisian school of our day. M. de Saintine gives us neither exaggeration, impiety, obscenity, nor morbid anatomy; though romantic, he is natural; and there is no action in the human mind outraged by his tracery, though

refined upon to the furthest limits. With such recommendations, and only four prominent characters (Count Charney, Girardi, Teresa, and Ludovico)—but we should make a fifth of the *Picciola*, albeit but a little flower), the story unfolds scenes of varied attractions; and the leading event in which the heroine distinguishes herself, nearly as it resembles the exploit of Elizabeth in "The Exiles of Siberia," is rendered one of the most memorable in the book by the picture it draws of Bonaparte presiding at the mimic battle of Marengo, after he had received the iron crown of Italy.

We shall not injure the interest of the narrative by telling more than that Count Charney, a French nobleman sated with pleasures, is condemned to imprisonment for a conspiracy against the first consul, and incarcerated in Fenestrelle, an ancient fortress among the mountains of Piedmont. Here his sympathies are re-awakened, and his scepticism cured by the upspringing of a flower in the court-yard of his prison. Girardi is another prisoner, and Teresa his daughter; and Ludovico is a gaoler—a whole-length portrait very skilfully represented. Rough outside, and stern, and devoted to his prescribed duties, he is yet good-humoured and humane; and his attendance on Charney, when so ill that "the doctors have decided that the sick man has taken an eternal lease of the flat of his back," is among his other kind offices, a touching sketch. The cause of his success is also a capital thought, and contributes admirably to work out the main story. Before we proceed, we will just introduce an example of the author's sentiment. The flower is, like its master, threatened with its close.

"Charney drew near to the feeble invalid, whose bloom was already withering; and with what grief did he now contemplate her fading hues! The happiness, the poetry of his life seemed vanishing before him. The fragrance of *Picciola* already indicated a mistaken hour, like a watch whose movements are out of order. Every blossom, drooping on its stem, had renounced the power of turning towards the sun; as a dying girl closes her eyes that she may not behold the lover, the sight of whom might attach her anew to a world from which she is departing."

Not to infringe on our rule of abstinence from disturbing the mysteries of productions of this class, we shall conclude with a portion of the Marengo description, to which we have already alluded.

"At dawn of day, the city of Alexandria was arrayed in all its attributes of festivity. An immense population circulated in its streets, festooned with tapestry, garlands of flowers, and glossy foliage. The crowd pressed chiefly from the Town Hall, inhabited by Napoleon and Josephine, towards the triumphal arch erected at the extremity of the suburb through which they were to pass on their way to the memorable plains of Marengo. The whole way from Alexandria to Marengo, the same populace, the same cries, the same braying of trumpets. Never had the pilgrimage to the shrine of our Lady of Loretto—never had even the Holy Jubilee of Rome, attracted such multitudes as were proceeding towards the field of that tremendous battle, whose ashes were scarcely yet cold in the earth. On the plain of Marengo, the emperor has promised to preside over a sham-fight, a mimic representation given in honour of the signal victory obtained five years before upon the spot, by the Consul Bonaparte. Tables, raised on tressels, appear to line the road. The people, in innumerable masses, are eating, drinking,

singing, shouting, and acting plays in the open air. Even preaching is not neglected; for more than one pulpit has been improvised between the theatres and wine-shops; from which hosts of greasy monks, not satisfied with giving their benediction to the passengers, and exhorting them to temperance and sobriety, gratify their avarice by the sale of consecrated chaplets, and little virgins carved in ivory. In the long and only street of the village of Marengo, every house, transformed into an inn, presents a scene of noise and confusion. To every window, the eyes of the spectator are attracted by strings of smoked hams or sausages; of quails or red partridges; or pyramids of gingerbread and cakes. People are pushing in, or pushing out, at every door,—Italians and French, soldiers or peasants; heaps of macaroni, of marchpane, and other dainties, are beginning to disappear. In the dark and narrow staircases, people rub quarelling some against each other; some even compelled, by the rapacity of their neighbours, to raise over their heads the food they are carrying; while a clever hand and longer arm than their own makes off, unperceived, with the savoury burdens; whether a buttered loaf, figs, grapes, oranges, a Turin ham, a larded quail, a forcemeat pie, or an excellent *stufato* in its tureen; when cries of indignation, or shrieks of distress, accompanied by mockeries and loud laughter, resound on every side. The thief, in the ascending line upon the staircase, satisfied with his plunder, tries to turn back and run away. The victim, in the descending line, robbed of his dinner, attempts to return and furnish himself with new provisions: and the flux and reflux of the crowd, disorganized by these irregular movements, is pushed partly into the street, and partly into the warehouse on the second story, amid oaths, imprecations, and peals of laughter; while their discomfiture is hailed, with added uproar, by the drinkers already established in the wine-shops of the ground-floor, in defiance of the sage counsels of the monks. From one room to another, among tables covered with dishes and surrounded with guests, are seen circulating the hostess and *giannine*, or waitresses of the house; some with gay coloured aprons, powdered hair, and the coquettish little pompadour, which forms part of their holiday costume; others with short petticoats, long braids of hair, naked feet, and a thousand glittering ornaments of tinsel or gold. But to these animated scenes, in the village or the road, the clamour or the street—to these cries, songs, exclamations, the noise of music, dancing, talking, and the jingling of plates and glasses, other sounds of a different nature are about to succeed. In an hour the thundering noise of cannon will be heard—cannon almost harmless, indeed, and likely only to break the windows of the houses. The little street will echo with the word of command, and every house be eclipsed by the smoke of volleys of musketry—charged with powder. Then beware of pillage, unless every remnant of provision has been placed in safety: nay, let the gay *giannine* look to herself; for mimic war is apt, in such particulars, to imitate its prototype. In great particulars, however, no less; for nothing can exceed the majesty of the preparations for the sham-fight upon the plain of Marengo. A magnificent throne, planted round with tri-coloured standards, is raised upon one of the few hillocks which diversify the field. Already, the troops, in every variety of uniform, are defiling towards the spot. The trumpet appeals to the cavalry; the rolling of drums

seems to cover the whole surface of the plain, which trembles under the heavy progress of the artillery and ammunition-waggons. The aides-de-camp, in their glittering uniforms, are galloping hither and thither; the banners waving to the wind, which causes, at the same time, a pleasing undulation of the feathers, aigrettes, and tri-coloured plumes; while the sun, that ever-present guest at the fetes of Napoleon—that radiant illustrator of the pomps and vanities of the empire, casts its vivid reflections upon the golden embroideries, the brass and bronze of the cannon, helmets, cuirasses, and the sixty thousand bayonets bristling the tumultuous field. By degrees, the troops, arriving with hurried march at the appointed spot, continue to force backward, in a wide semicircle of retreat, the crowds of curious spectators, broken up like the rippling billows of the ocean by the progress of one enormous wave; while a few horsemen, charging along the line, proceeded to clear the field for action. The village is now deserted; the gay tents are struck, the tressels removed, the songs and clamours reduced to silence. On all sides are to be seen, scattered along the vast circuit of the plain, men interrupted in their sport or repasts, and women dragging away their children, terrified by the flashing sabres, or loud neighing of the chargers."

The picture of the sham-fight is equally vivid; but we must leave it, with the volumes to which it belongs, to the readers to whom we cordially recommend them. Not having seen the French copy, we can only surmise, that the translator has done his duty, both faithfully as regards the author, and judiciously as regards the English public.

*Weeds of Witchery.* By T. H. Bayly, Esq. 4to. pp. 32. London, 1837. Ackermann and Co.

THIS is a very agreeable *jeu-d'esprit*, suggested by the "Flowers of Loveliness" and other publications of that order. It is but justice to Mr. Bayly to say, that his *Weeds* are really very gay and pretty flowers; but what could be expected from a poet of his talent, when allowed to rank water-lilies, jonquils, hearts-ease, &c. with poppies, and chickweed, and corn-flowers, &c. as weeds? There is no name appended to the illustrations; but whoever has conceived and executed them must soon make a name, and a high one too, for they are among the most successful efforts we have seen in this lively and engaging style of art.

"Water-Lilies" are represented by a pleasure-hunt party in rough weather: it is very clever and humorous, but we can only give the verse, not the engraving.

"Water-Lilies."

A boat, a boat, an open boat,  
On ' the sea, the sea, the open sea !'

If e'er ye have been afloat,

There's naught could match your misery !

Pale water-lilies, you'd suppose,

Poor ladies, when such boats they enter;

The cheek, the pallid leaf; the nose,

The spot of yellow in the centre !

Such lilies, ' pining on the stem,'

Or on the stern are more or less ill;

The smell of tar is bad to them,

And worse the pitching of the vessel.

The spray, alas ! no jasmine spray !

Is weighing down each new bonnet;

The hair is out of curl; to-day

The sea has all the curl upon it.

Old Ocean ! thou art much too old,

To be so rough and so unsteady;

Is this now—may I make so bold—

A fit reception for a lady ?

Shallow thou'rt not; then recollect,

All this may seem more deep than clever;

Be calm awhile, and thou'lt reflect;

Don't play at pitch and toss for ever !"

Our next illustration is of "John Quill," a peak-nosed lawyer's-clerk, perched on a very high desk, and full of character.

"John Quill."

John Quill was clerk to Robert Shark, a legal man was he, As dull, obscure, and technical, as legal man could be; And, perch'd before his legal desk, Quill learnt the legal rules

That give high principles to all who sit upon high stools? John Quill with skill could doubt distil where all before was clear.

One would suppose that he was born with a pen behind Though merely clerk to Robert Shark, so great was his address,

That many really thought J. Q. as knowing as R. S.

John Quill, however small the job, huge drafts of deeds could draw,

A puzzle quite to common sense, according to the law : With vulgar, vile tautology to indicate his skill,

He did ' enlarge, prolong, extend, and add unto ' the bill! And thus he did ' possess, obtain, get, have, hold, and enjoy ' the bill.

To the convenience of Robert Shark, who called him w<sup>t</sup> his Birds of a feather were the pair, the aim of both their Town nests

To pluck all others, plume themselves, and feather their But 'tis a theme too dark for jest; oh ! let him who embarks

Upon the troubled waters of the law—beware of Sharks; And such my dread of legal Quills, I readily conf. ss

That Quills of 'fretful porcupine' would terrify me less When poor men seek a legal friend, the truth the fable tells,

The lawyer eats the oyster up, the client has the shells; And could the shells be pounded to a palatable dinner, The legal friend would swallow that, and clients might grow thinner."

Our last, to use the language of the commadrumsists, is on what we all want—"Hearts-ease," typified by a jolly John Bull feasting at home after a continental tour. The latter verses run thus:—

"My bootmaker yearly enlarges

His bill, with the growth of my calf !

And my tailor increases his charges,

And books me ' a coat and a half !'

He can't raise my small-clothes, how can he ?

Small clothes ! why, I never wear any !

My friend, Doctor Cannibis, offered

To cure me of rheumatic attack,

But I laughed when I said that I suffered

A pain in the small of my back !

Ah me ! he did nothing but quiz it !

'The smell of your back ! pray, where is it ?'

If ever they put me in fetters,

My bondage eternal must be ;

For if they enlarge my debts,

I'm sure they'll all pull me down !

They'll make light of my claims if they will,

Yet I shall *look big* at them still.

Young Cupid will never o'ertake me,

No, no, I must pine on the shelf ;

If ever I'm match'd, he must make me

A fatting fat as myself ;

But never again will I roam,

I'm content with my Heart's-ease at home.

I'm sure I don't envy the lovers

Or sport, though inactive and lame ;

I'm not far to go for the covers

Under which the cook places my game :

Three courses I manage myself,

And I've got my preserves on a shelf !

In France, for this exquisite dinner,

A nap they would charge me at least ;

But here, after all, I'm a winner,

A nap I secure by the feast.

And of the past dreaming, at last,

Recollection becomes a *re-past* !

My dogs either beg a titbit,

Or curl themselves up on the rug ;

And I in my easy chair sit,

Luxurious, silken, and snug :

And my Heart's-ease I trust is secure,

For I have not forgotten the poor."

Altogether, we are sure this volume will be, as it ought to be, very popular.

*Charlemagne; an Anglo-Norman Poem of the Twelfth Century.* Now first published. By F. Michel. 12mo. London, Pickering.

*La Chanson de Roland, ou de Roncevaux, du XII<sup>e</sup> Siècle.* Publié pour la première fois. Par François Michel. 8vo. Paris, 1837. Silvestre; London, Pickering.

WE have much pleasure in calling the attention of our readers to these two interesting and curious works, the most recent fruits of

M. Michel's indefatigable researches amongst the early poetry of France and Normandy. They are the two most ancient poems now extant, written in the Anglo-Norman language; the French dialect which was spoken by the Norman settlers in our island.

The first of these volumes is a beautiful specimen of the care and elegance with Pickering always pleases our eyes. The preface and glossary, both long, complete, and useful, are written in English, which will, perhaps, be a recommendation to many of our countrymen. The original manuscript from which it is printed is preserved among the royal MSS. in the British Museum. Its subject is nominally a journey of Charlemagne to Jerusalem and Constantinople. It is, however, neither a religious legend nor yet a story of chivalrous warfare; but it belongs to the livelier class of *romance* whose object was, above all things, to produce that merriment in the old bar-mial halls which made the "beards to wag all," as the old distich has it. Besides their value to the antiquarian and the historian in illustrating the manners and feelings of feudal times, these two books are important in another point of view: they contain nearly all we have of the Anglo-Norman language at a particular, and that an early, period; and thus their glossaries furnish the scholar with a dictionary of the language at that period.

Of the volume so beautifully got up by Silvestre, of Paris, we must say something more. The story of Ganelon's treachery, and the disaster of Roncevaux, has been more or less popular throughout Europe ever since the twelfth century. The noble poem which forms the text of this volume had long been buried in the dust of the Bodleian library, and been the object of the sighs of the learned, until M. Michel, during his residence in England, paid a visit to Oxford, on purpose to obtain a transcript of it. It, however, only forms a part of the book; for the learned and interesting prefaces and appendices contain such a mass of curious information, and materials relating to the history of this legend, and its various forms in different languages, as has never before been collected together on any similar subject. It is, indeed, a book which we heartily recommend to the shelves of every library.

*The Origin of the Germanic and Scandinavian Languages and Nations; with a sketch of their Literature.* By the Rev. J. Bosworth, &c. 8vo. London, 1836. Longman.

IT has been long known, that Dr. Bosworth has in the press a new Dictionary of the Anglo-Saxon Language, which we are glad to hear may be expected to appear in the spring of the present year. The book whose title we have given above was originally intended for the introduction to his Saxon Dictionary; but, having outgrown the space to which he would have confined it, he has, it appears, cancelled it with regard to the dictionary, and has only printed a few copies separately for sale. As a judicious, concise, and comprehensive view of all the Teutonic dialects, and the chief works written in them, we can safely recommend this sketch to our readers; they will find in it things brought together under one view, which are elsewhere spread over some scores of volumes, and many of them are not to be found in any other work. The sketch of our different English provincial dialects, and of the steps which have been taken, at different times, to illustrate them, is the first attempt of a similar nature that we have seen, and is much to our satisfaction; while it shews

us how much this subject has been hitherto neglected,—how few are the districts whose dialects have been examined with any care,—and how many there are, and those the most important, whose dialects have been totally overlooked. The comparison of the Friesic and Anglo-Saxon languages, by Mr. Halbertsma, is also very curious and very interesting; though we must confess, that there are in it here and there a few instances of false philology. Is Mr. Halbertsma aware that the Kentish men are believed to be, by origin, Frieslanders? It is a circumstance which makes the Kentish dialect, than which none is less known, one of very great interest. We are glad to hear that there is some prospect of having a complete edition of the early work in the Kentish dialect which is preserved in manuscript in the British Museum, and which, we think, will throw some light on this subject. The languages and literature, of which Dr. Bosworth has given a view in this volume, are the Anglo-Saxon, with the English provincial dialects; the Friesic; the Old-Saxon; and the Low-German, or Platt-Deutsch; the Dutch; the Gothic; the High-German, at its different periods; and the languages of Iceland, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden.

*The Divorced.* By Lady Charlotte Bury, Authoress of "Flirtation," &c. &c. 12mo. 2 vols. London, 1837. Colburn.

We do not remember so perfectly as the seeming peculiarity and importance of such an affair might, in the eyes of some of our readers, demand, the actual case of fashionable intrigue and delinquency on which this tale is said to be founded; and if we had not been referred to it in the postscript, always the main point in a lady's writing, we should have given the authoress credit for as much invention as could be grafted on so common a series of circumstances as an amour with a married dame, a divorce, a consequent marriage of the adulterous pair, and the inconveniences, vexations, and miseries, which too probably result from such a connexion. Taking *The Divorced*, however, as we find it, we may truly say that, as a whole, it possesses considerable interest, and is well meant to afford a salutary lesson and point a moral. The characters are cleverly, if they are not all naturally, drawn—for we think Lord Howard and Miss Agar exaggerated; while, on the other hand, the events take place in the natural way, though they are sometimes brought about too artificially. That is, they are in themselves likely effects, but produced by unlikely causes: take an instance in Miss Agar's communication in a ball-room of the misfortune of her birth to Alice (the lovely heroine, at the age of eighteen or nineteen,\*) and the daughter of the divorced woman, Lady Howard.)

"Miss Agar addressed Lady Alice,—'Know then, since it is your determination to know, that your mother was first married to Lord Vernon: he was a good husband to her, and loved her; she lacked nothing that his affection and his means could give her. He was very proud of her, poor man! Ah! pride often comes before a fall. Well, she took to him at first, and conducted herself discreetly till she fell in love with your father, Lord Howard. Lord Vernon and he were, as is the rule in such cases, you know, my dear, or perhaps do

not know, sworn friends; it was quite *en règle*. Lord Vernon was the last person to see what the town was talking about and familiar with, as a settled *liaison*, for months previously. Well, Lord Stuart was born; Lord Vernon was fonder than ever of Lady Howard. She had a long dangerous illness after her confinement; he nursed her for three months consecutively, scarcely taking sufficient rest for his own health's sake. Lord Howard played the part of second, or rather first nurse. Lord Vernon was in person a plain man, though I am one of those who think he has great charms. The gossiping world, you know, my dear, has amused itself at different times, when there was a dearth of news, by inventing stories about him and me; it's all nonsense though, except in the way of friendship, except—' (and Miss Agar's looks belied what she uttered—she wished they should). 'But your father, Lord Howard, was, and is, a beautiful man. Oh! but *nem. con.* beautiful. Poor Lou! as I used to call her, could not resist him, and no sooner did she recover her health than she ran off with him. She was always noble, whether acting right or wrong. I do not meddle with that question at present, but noble she was, for she could not bear to go on living in a state of duplicity under her husband's eyes. I know some folks have made it a question whether it was not better to do so, especially where there was a child in the case, rather than publicly take their *partie*, and make up their mind to run off. Be that as it may, I leave it to others to decide; Lady Vernon adopted that mode.'"

And, at the close of the conversation, which causes perturbation even to this evil-spirited old fashionable spinster:—

"'I had not the slightest idea you were ignorant of the story, Lady Alice,' she continued, muttering indistinctly as she moved away, 'or I never should have told it to you.' 'Oh, no! I am sure you would not.—Shall I ask for your carriage?' 'Thanks, thanks; I am better now. A few more drops of laudanum than usual when I go home, and I shall be all right again; these rooms are hot.' 'Yes, very; but will you not go home, Miss Agar?' 'Home—no; I hate home;' and she laughed an unnatural laugh. Nothing so melancholy as an unnatural laugh! 'It will not do,' she resumed, 'its a dull ending to an evening till sleep is ready to shut up shop and thought together. Oh no, I am quite well now—quite awake; I must go on yet awhile,' and, opening a small ivory box she took out of her pocket, added, 'a little of this will varnish the outside of the platter, and as for the in, laudanum will do that. It is a duty to look as well as we can to the last.'

This appears to us to be such language as such a person would never utter. Alice's distress upon the occasion is also described in bad taste and language.

"'So, then,' she thought, with that aching throb of anguish which has no name, 'my first sorrow was caused by my mother's guilt! She, who has so coaxed and doated upon me, is, in fact, my worst enemy; so there is an end of my reverence for my parent. I no longer can consider our home as the abode of virtuous love; no, all the ties which bind us together as a family—which make them my parents—which makes Henry and me brother and sister,—are sinful. We ought never to have existed!—poor, poor mamma!'

Before we offer any further illustration, we may as well notice that the best grammar is not always observed; "was" for "were," "I am her" for "I am she," and other lady-like

slip-shods, occurring throughout. There are also some rather curious positions in these volumes, which mingle with the mass of their social and pathetic reflections: thus, for example, we are told, "every body knows how inexpressibly melancholy it is to sit down to a sumptuous feast, surrounded by attendants, the only one to be waited upon;" we should, on the contrary, imagine that hardly any body knows this; and, for ourselves, and 999 out of 1000 of the population of England, we think we may assert, that such a treat, occasionally, would be exceedingly pleasant. The following is a singular congeries of mistakes:—

"'Wherever there is no love of, or care about, those who have gone before us, there is little emulation, or excitement to virtue or heroic action, left; little dread of what is evil, or admiration of what is good. It is a flippant vulgarity, in the character of 'Charles,' in 'The Rivals,' to make it appear as if it were an admirable trait in him to sell his ancestor's portrait at an auction; as though this were the characteristic of a gay, high-spirited fellow, rather than of a vicious fool: but *Sheridan had no ancestor, I believe*—he was himself his own ancestor, as an Irish body may say.'

This is a fling, à l'Agar, at the living descendants of the author of "The School for Scandal;" and the annexed is a specimen of platitude in fine language, and not very intelligible.

"If there is an inexpressible charm in the glow which a warm nature sheds over intercourse, there is, perhaps, a greater security of the permanency of affection in that of less demonstrative natures. Persons who are either naturally colder, or who have learned, by fatal experience of treachery, or unworthiness in those to whom they have given up their souls without reserve, to become more chary of their professions, more slow in forming attachments, are of much safer kind, and generally in the end, confer the most lasting happiness. The one is an aroma that inebriates, and passes off as though it had never existed; the other is a staff and stay in trouble—a refuge, 'what time the storm beats heavy on us.'

At the close of one of Lord and Lady Howard's reuinions (which, be it remarked, are, on the part of the lord, far too brutal, since, with all his ill-temper, he is a gentleman, and really loves his wife), we find the following:—

"Lady Howard heard this cruel taunting, as she had done a thousand times before, in meek silence, and in inward prayer she had again laid her weary head on the pillow, and even tried, in the midst of the storm, to lull herself into the temporary forgetfulness, by falling into such sleep as those alone know who, like her, endure, it may be, merited suffering for past crimes, but unmerited from the being by whom it is inflicted. 'What, madam, you are sleeping, are you?—by heaven, that is too bad! but I will teach you what it is to be indifferent to your husband's wretchedness, to your children's misery and dishonour. You have occasioned the death of one, perhaps you may also that of the other; and you sleep, do you, when I place these truths before you? Charming innocent! you pretend to be composed and serene, do you, while you see me raving like a madman?' 'I am any thing but composed, any thing but serene: I feel as if my life was fleeting fast away—would to God it was gone!' 'Mighty fine all this high-flown language, truly!—very romantic and interesting, I doubt not—quite suited to the Minerva press: but, madam, at your age, and in your circumstances, something

\* This interesting portion of our heroine's history is not quite clear. Vol. i. p.1 tells us it is sixteen years since Lady Howard eloped: p. 17, that it was eighteen years.

else is called for than the affected sentiment of a girl of fifteen.' 'Good heaven! Howard, how can I pacify you? what can I say? where find words or meaning that will soothe you? You may trample me under your feet — you may beatoe every dreadful name upon me, and I will not turn and defend myself. I plead guilty — guilty from my very soul; but not guilty of want of love for you; with my dying breath I will testify that no truer devotion was ever felt for mortal man than that with which I have served you, and sacrificed myself to you. If I did not speak to you before, it was because I hoped my silence might allay your wrath; and now that I have spoken, it is only to repeat what you know so well already. I am your true and faithful wife, whatever I have been to others.' Lord Howard made no reply. He could not make any that would have justified his own violence and brutality, and so he went to bed, and to sleep directly, as men can do, though they have caused all sleep to fly from their wretched partners. Are such scenes true to nature or not? Alas!'

We should answer, they are not true to nature; but Lady Bury speaks for her sex; and we have, indeed, a most undue proportion of prayers and supplications in all her afflicted female characters. Thus, vol. i. p. 28, "Lady Howard hesitated whether or not to awake her, but Alice again fell into her child-like slumber, and she sat down by her bed-side, wishing those wishes for her peace and happiness, which, in a mother's breast, are prayers." Vol. ii. p. 135, "Lady Howard saw all, felt all; but this time she bowed low before the chastening rod; she prayed not for the life which contained her own: her prayers were voiceless, speechless; her agony was her prayers."

We believe there are a hundred similar passages; and it is the defect of the moral, that, with all this praying, suffering, and repenting, it never occurs to any body to leave off their sinning. We must now, however, go towards the conclusion, where Lady Howard is childless, widowed, and reduced to poverty.

"Lady Howard had, during the last portion of her existence, exhausted the resources of her jewel-box. From time to time she had placed some token of past love in that wretched, yet sometimes blessed, receptacle of the miserable, a pawnbroker's, till all was gone, and she owed the last month of her lodging. She had eaten her last crust; she had no clothes but the rags on her back. This is the romance of real life, a thousand times more touching than all that fiction can devise. In mute hopelessness she opened her jewel-box — she lifted up tray after tray — in vain; — for not one of the precious gems, with which it had been filled, was left. Not one of the gems, with which Lord Howard had taken such pride and pleasure in decking out the beautiful form of his wife, remained to procure her bread, in the hour of destitution; — not one of the tokens of that love, which had led to her undoing; not one of the gifts from him, for whose sake she now endured actual want, was left. It seemed as though it was her punishment to be bereft of every thing connected with the man, for whom she had been guilty."

Now, as her ladyship had only been a few months in lodgings, this state of destitution is one of the effects for which there could be no probable cause: her lavish jewel-box must have been a *poor-box*, if it could not support her for years in that situation. But the close is the best written portion of the work; and we will quote it, as a tribute due to the talents of the authoress, though it is directly at variance with

the earlier part of her picture. At p. 166, vol. i., it is proclaimed: —

"There is a feeling excited in the breast of a mother at the birth of her first-born, which is as unlike every other in its nature, as it is permanent and engrossing; and however much after-circumstances may estrange the parties, the exulting pleasure with which the first-born was hailed by its mother, can never be entirely effaced from the memory; and great as was Lady Howard's affection for the two children of the man she loved, nevertheless, when she beheld Lord Stuart, she remembered he was her first-born — she had forsaken him — she had injured him, and a long repressed flood of overwhelming tenderness, such as can be felt alone for one that is most dear and most injured, now burst forth, and nature claimed her right."

As we never had the felicity of maternity, we believed this as we went along: but, lo! at the touching, though inconsistent, conclusion, with which we now conclude, the story runs thus: — This son, now Lord Vernon, rescues her from penury, and —

"Poor Vernon!" she exclaimed. "Yes, you are my child. I feel a yearning toward you; but love you as I loved them, never! — it is impossible! Yet this kindness on your part is far more than I deserve, and it must not be cast aside as worthless. I will receive you — will love you as much as I can love any thing; and Fanny Harcourt, too, — she loved Henry. Once, the first dreadful interview over, Lord and Lady Vernon visited their unhappy relative daily. They did not leave one kind office undone, not a mark of respectful affection was wanting, on their parts, towards Lady Howard. Lord Vernon's first and last waking thought was of his parent. He remembered only, that his was now the privilege of ministering to her comfort — that it was his blessed calling to make her latter days, days of comparative pleasantness and peace. His wish had been granted — his mother became an inmate in his family. \* \* \*

"At last, Lady Howard was grateful for her children's kindness. She thanked them, and said she had not deserved their affection. It was evident to Lady Vernon, that Lady Howard had exhausted all the powerful feelings of her heart; that with Lord Howard and his children she had buried all deep-rooted and ardent love; that her only wish now was to rest by them in the tomb. In Lady Howard's youth, in the days even when she forsook the path of duty, and, subsequently, through all the years of humiliation and sorrow she had endured, religion had not altogether been a stranger to her. In her most trying hours, she had found refuge in prayer — she had sued for forgiveness — she had bowed down to the punishment of sin; but now it seemed as if that consolation was denied her. A melancholy hardness had crept over all her feelings, and she avoided making any mention of her sorrows. She never would allude to her children, or allow any one to do so in her presence; she had succeeded in casing herself in adamant; she would sit for hours with her eyes fixed on the same page; then, forgetting Lady Vernon's presence, she would clasp her hands suddenly together, and shake her head with that peculiar significance of inward grief, which denote so much speechless misery; — at another, the low groan of a recollected moment of horror or of sorrow burst from her, and told more forcibly than words, of that anguish which has its own peculiar language. And so her days went by. Thus they are passed by the wretched and the dying. No posture was easy to her; every gleam of sun-shine rendered the invalid (for such she was now become) too hot or too cold. The food which tempted the appetite yesterday, was distasteful to-day. The favourite exotic was placed before her; its sweet odour was now turned from, with disgust. Nothing could give pleasure, or afford rest; and still Lady Howard seemed insensible to the only source of comfort; still she turned from the consolations of heavenly things; gradually her bodily strength forsook her, till, at last, she was confined to her bed. Yet no disease, properly so called, ate away her strength. It was the unseen hand that worked its sure slow work. Lady Vernon tried to prepare her husband for his mother's death. She endeavoured to interpose a softening medium through which to view the decree of heaven; but he would not receive the warning: he could not endure to think that one so lately given, would be so abruptly snatched away. And he turned aside from his wife, displeased when she touched upon the subject. The house to which Lord Vernon had removed his mother, at the time when he became acquainted with her miserable condition, was one of those villas which are so thickly studded on the banks of the Thames. Beauchamp Villa was in the neighbourhood of Twickenham, that beautiful country, which is so fertile and so gentle in its sylvan scenery, that on a cursory glance it seems an unfit residence for the sick and the dying. But there is a melancholy impressed in the interior of the outwardly gay looking villas, which tells of the sad scenes that have taken place within them. One almost might fancy, in their gloomy apartments, that one heard the moan of the sufferer, and the careful footfall of the attendant; neither is the view from their windows calculated to dissipate such imaginations. The velvet lawn is sometimes decorated with a splendid cedar or a luxuriant willow leading down to the Thames. The myrtles and ilexes, that grow in those mild sites to an unusual height in England, and remind those who have been in Italy of its never-to-be-forgotten beauties, — all these beauties do not lessen the superstitious feeling of gloom which pervades those dwellings; but the persons who have sojourned in such a villa, witnessing the decay of those dear to them, will recognise the reflection of their own feelings, at that time, in this remark. \* \* \* When some person in Hyde Park, leaning over the door of the carriage of the courted beauty of the day, announced, to those within, 'So Lady Howard is dead, Vernon's mother'; the persons who heard the news (such intelligence is called) asked, 'What! is she dead? She has resided with her son of late, has she not? Monstrous good-natured in him!' 'Yes, even since that madman, her last husband, Howard, shot himself.' 'How rapidly in succession all that family have gone off — quite like Tom Thumb, one after the other. First, there was poor foolish Talbot, a maudlin sort of fellow, went moping about with a face as long as my arm, because, forsooth, his mother was divorced; and then that pretty creature, Alice — she was the next that died — it was consumption carried them off. The father, you know, shot himself; and, last of all, Lady Howard.' 'She was a beautiful woman,' said an elderly man, who remembered her as Laura de Lacy. 'How can I get at the present man's — the miser's vote for —shire, Willoughby? You, who know every thing, tell me that.' 'I cannot, was the reply.' Mr. Willoughby remembered, at that moment, the drive in his cab seven years ago, in that same scene — the young man was dead — he verging

to age was left. Mr. Willoughby remembered Lord Talbot's anger, when he alluded to his mother's disgrace—he remembered his admiration of Fanny Harcourt—the same pantomime was before him—now he himself was still one of the old bairns of the drive—he still sat in judgment on the women, and still led the same trivial life—but Mr. Willoughby was not altogether a bad-hearted man ; and he felt sorry at the moment, as he heard these idle, harsh remarks on the Howard family. For a few moments—a very few—he was reflective. The gay, factious Willoughby thought upon the vanity and the briefness of life ; but the famous gastronome of his time dissipated such unusual thoughts, by inviting him to dine with him that day. Mr. Willoughby turned round, with a vivacity of expression, and answered, 'Yes,' and looked forward to the hour of eight with eager expectation. The Howards, and their unhappy history, was forgotten. Each went his way out of Hyde Park—that scene where once *Laura de Lucy* had attracted every eye ; where the courted Lady Vernon had commanded attention ; where the divorced Lady Howard had drawn down remarks ; where the poor heart-broken widow hurried along on her way to the pawnbroker's, and where now her death was thus unfeeling announced. It mattered not to the Howards what was said of them—they were all dead—every trace of their existence was done away. The miser had sold Howard House—the roof under which they lived and suffered. He had shut up the greater part of Howard Castle, living only in two rooms. Beauchamp Villa was, soon after Lady Howard's death, pulled down to make room for the erection of a brewhouse. The cedar, with one or two myrtles and ilexes, alone remain by which its site can be remembered. Never were the words of Scripture more fearfully, more fully realised, than in the complete uprooting of the Howard family. Well might those terrific words be applied to them, and to their dwelling, 'The place thereof shall know it no more.'

Such are the faults and the redeeming features of this tale; which, as a whole, does not diminish the literary reputation of Lady Charlotte Bury.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

*Title Commutation Tables, for ascertaining, at sight, the amount of Corn-rent in bushels, as directed by the act of 6 and 7 William IV, cap. 71, equivalent to the Title-rent, fixed as the basis in the draft of apportionment; also, showing the amount of Title-rent charge payable for the year 1857, according to the average prices of Wheat, Barley, and Oats, for the seven preceding years, to Christmas 1856, as declared in the London Gazette of 13th January, 1857.* By Charles M. Willlich, Secretary and Actuary to the University Life

Assurance Society. (London, Longman and Co.)  
We never saw aught which displayed the value of tabular forms more admirably than this pamphlet of only twelve pages.

"By the Tithe Commutation Act (says the Preface), all tithes will be converted into a corn-rent of so many bushels of wheat, barley, and oats; but, instead of the party paying such corn-rent in kind, it directs that the respective quantities shall be annually valued at the average prices for the seven preceding years, and the amount thereof shall be the tithe-rent charge for the following year. The object in view has been to arrange the Tithe Commutation Tables in such a manner as may enable any individual to ascertain with ease, the quantity of wheat, barley, and oats, which is to be inserted in the draft of apportionment, or schedule, against each amount of tithe-rent; and to shew, at the same time, the amount of tithe-rent-charge he is to receive or to pay for the current year."

We have only to add that the object is perfectly accomplished; and that not a tithe-owner or tithe-payer in the country should be without these most plain, ready, and useful tables.

*Meteorology, considered in its connexion with Astronomy, Climate, &c.* By Patrick Murphy, Mvo. pp. 277. (London, Baillière.)—The science of meteorology is still so little understood, that any man may start any hypothesis he pleases upon it, and support at least portions of it by plausible argument. Mr. Murphy has fully persuaded

himself that he has developed the *arcana* of all its mysteries, and speaks most confidently of his having established facts, which, in truth, he has only suggested, as well as of overturning existing opinions (such as Newton's gravitation), which, in reality, he has not touched. Inclining to the French opponents of our mighty name, the author sets up a theory of his own—that planetary action is potent on the earth's meteorology, and that Jupiter, Saturn, and Uranus (especially the latter), exercise the greatest influence upon our wind and weather. If we understand him rightly, they and other external objects, the sun, moon, comets, &c. effect electricity, with which the earth's magnetism, crossing always at right angles, makes what he calls an "union of opposite progression," and thus produces all the changes we see. He endeavours to reconcile the phenomena of rain, fog, dew, &c. to these principles, but seems to forget preceding satisfactory explanations, and to assume a great deal more than he proves. Our readers will recollect how unfortunate he was in his prognostics about the weather at the beginning of the year. (See *L. G.* pp. 12, 20). So easy is it to speculate; so difficult to know!

*Judgment and Mercy for Afflicted Souls, &c.*, by Francis Quarles. 12mo. pp. 132. (London, Simpkin and Co.)—A reprint of a religious tract of Francis Quarles (the celebrated author of the "A mblems"), with a brief biography of him prefixed. It is a curiously quaint and pious production.

*Vacher's Parliamentary Companion for the Session 1837.* (London, Vacher and Sons.)—Corrected to the latest period, this is a most useful and convenient guide to all persons engaged in parliamentary affairs. A facsimile of a return of an election writ forms a very appropriate em-  
bellishment to the title.

*A Key to the Almanack: or, the Calendar Explained:*

*A Key to the Almanack; or, the Calendar Explained; containing the History of the Year, with Astronomical and Chronological Notices, &c. &c., edited by D. Arnot. Pp. 66. (London: Macdonald's.) Neatness and cheapness are the characteristics of this little book, which contains much useful matter (and unlike many larger works) may be consulted from one end of the year to the other for matters of daily interest.*

*Public Liturgy; containing Forms of Prayer for the Public Services of Religion, and also for Family Worship and Private Devotion.* Pp. 280. (London, Nisbet and Co.) — A body of prayers, hymns, &c. &c., suited to every occasion, and breathing every pious and religious sentiment.

F.L.S., author of "Geographic Exercises," Pp. III. (London, Sherwood and Co.; Gosling and Eley)—A very prettily arranged and good spelling-book.

ampton, as has been hitherto conjectured. It is a very able and interesting literary production.

*A Guide for Invalids to the Continental Watering Places,* by Dr. A. G. Home. Pp. 236. (Smith, Elder, and Co.)—A copious and useful guide to several hundred more watering-places than ever we heard of, alphabetically arranged, and with an account of their mineral properties and virtues.

*Sacred Philosophy of the Seasons; illustrating the Perfections of God in the Phenomena of the Year.* By the Rev. H. Duncan, D.D. (Pp. 407. Edinburgh, Oliphant and Son : Glasgow, Collins : Dublin, Curry : London, Hamilton and Adams).—In this excellent volume Dr. Duncan has applied the doctrines of natural theology to particular subjects connected with the seasons, and obvious to every eye and mind. Its whole tendency is to improve the human feelings and character, and raise the aspirations of the soul through nature to the great First Cause. It is an instructive book both for old and young.

**ARTS AND SCIENCES.**

LINNEAN SOCIETY.

MR. LAMBERT in the chair.—Mr. Iliff exhibited a portion of the trunk of an oak which was blown down in Windsor Park during the late hurricane, which, upon being split, was found to have the letters W. B. and the year 1670 carved on it. The Marquess of Bute and others were elected fellows of the Society. Read, some observations on the manna of Mount Sinai, and the dragon's blood-tree, and aloe-plant of Socotrā, by Lieutenant Wellsted. The manna exudes from wounds made in the branches of a shrub belonging to the genus *Tamarix*, a species of *Coccus*, named by the Prussian travellers, Ehrenberg and Hemprich, *C. manniparus*. It is in Wady Hebron that the manna is collected by the Bedouins: the quantity obtained in the most favourable seasons does not exceed 700lbs. A considerable part is consumed by the Bedouins themselves; but a portion

tion is sent to Cairo, and some is disposed of to the monks of Mount Sinai, who retail it to the Russian pilgrims, by whom it is received with great veneration, as an uncontested proof of the event in reference to it, recorded in Holy Writ. The substance is only collected in seasons after heavy rains, for it has been known to be wanting for a period of seven years. The dragon's blood-tree of Socotra appears to be identical with the *dracaena draco* of Linna, which is likewise indigenous to the Canary Islands. In Socotra the tree is frequently seen growing on the granite peaks, at an elevation of 4 or 5000 feet above the level of the sea. The gum exudes spontaneously, or from artificial incisions in the trunk. The Island of Socotra has been famous from the earliest period for its aloes; but that article of export has of late years fallen into neglect, so that not more than two tons were exported in 1833. The plant abounds all over the island, and is, most probably, identical with the *Aloe officinalis* of Forskal.

ROYAL INSTITUTION

ON Friday week, Mr. Faraday delivered a lecture on Dr. Marshall Hall's views of the function of the spinal marrow, as distinguished from the brain, of which the following are the leading points. The brain is the seat of sensation and volition with the other mental faculties. If the head of an animal be removed, as in the ordinary manner of killing a turkey by cooks, sensation and volition are destroyed; the limbs never move spontaneously. If the head of a snake be removed, the animal moves about for a time, then remains still, and never moves again unless it be disturbed. But, although spontaneous motion be destroyed, another form of motion remains. If the decapitated animal be excited by a puncture or laceration, it moves with energy. What is the nature of these movements? This is the question which Dr. Marshall Hall has investigated. All preceding physiologists have referred these movements to sensation. In their numbers rank Mr. Whittier, Mr. Legallois, Mr. Mayo, and Professor Müller. Dr. Hall adduces many experiments which seem to prove that it is not to sensation, but to another property, which he denominates excitomology, that these movements are owing. The head of a snake was removed; it moved about until one-third of its body hung over the outer edge of the table on which it was placed; in that situation it remained and died. Now he considers it impossible to imagine a situation more painful, admitting that sensation remained. Dr. Hall concludes, therefore, that when the head is removed, sensibility is annihilated. A similar conclusion is drawn from the following case: — A boy, aged 19, fell from a tree, and injured the spinal marrow, so as completely to paralyse the lower limbs both to sensation and voluntary motion; yet, on tickling the sole of the foot, or pinching the skin, the limb was moved with energy. It seems certain, therefore, that this motory effect was independent of sensation. There seems, therefore, to exist a source of motion in the animal economy distinct from sensation and volition. This source of motion resides in the spinal marrow, and certain excitator and motor nerves. The subject was illustrated by diagrams. If a motor nerve—if the spinal marrow be excited by the touches of a needle, or the compression of the forceps, or if a slight galvanic shock be passed across its fibres, the muscle or muscles to which it goes are excited to contraction. The nerve and the spinal marrow possess, therefore, an excitomotor power. In an experiment performed by Professor Müller, this motor agency pursued

a retrograde course. Dr. Hall particularly insists upon an experiment, in which the intercostal nerve of the decapitated turtle is excited; movements took place in the anterior and posterior fins, and the tail. The excito-motor influence pursued, therefore, an incident, retrograde, direct, and reflected course. This last experiment is important, from being the type of many physiological phenomena and pathological conditions. Of these a large table was displayed. All the acts of ingestion and egestion, the condition of the orifices and of the sphincters of the animal body, all depend upon this power. The diseases of dentition, and other sources of irritation, infantile convulsion, epilepsy, tetanus, and hydrophobia, &c., are all morbid forms of it. Respiration is excited through appropriate excitor nerves, and effused through appropriate motor nerves; the latter being the respiratory of Sir Charles Bell. A plan of the excito-motor system was shewn; the excitor nerves being arranged on the left, the motor nerves on the right hand, and the medulla oblongata, and medulla spinalis, occupying the centre. Mr. Faraday observed, thus to distinguish different parts of the nervous system, as to their specific action, might perhaps be the first step in an investigation into the nature of their functions. Electricity may be the agent in the excito-motor, or true spinal system and its phenomena; and the separation of this system from the cerebral, the system of sensation and volition, may suggest experiment.

#### GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

ON Friday week, the anniversary of this Society was held in Somerset House. The president, Mr. Lyell, took the chair at one o'clock; and the secretaries proceeded to read the reports from the council, and the museum and library committee, as well as from the auditors, on the flourishing state of the accounts for the past year. The president then communicated to the meeting, that the council had awarded two Wollaston medals; one to Captain Cautley, of the Bengal artillery, and the other to Dr. Hugh Falconer, of the Bengal Medical Service, for their geological researches and discoveries in fossil zoology, in the Servalik or Sub-Himalayan range of mountains. On presenting the medals to Dr. Boyle to transmit to his friends in India, the president expressed his conviction, how gratifying it must be to him to be the medium of communicating to Captain Cautley and Dr. Falconer the high sense entertained of their services to science by the Geological Society of London, who award these medals as a token of the sympathy they feel for those so zealously labouring in a distant land for the promotion of a common cause. The president further stated, that in his address he would treat more fully of the extent of their labours, and bear testimony to the zeal and industry with which these gentlemen had investigated the structure of the range extending along the southern base of the Himalayan mountains, between the Ganges and Sutlej rivers, as well as to the talent they had displayed in unravelling the anatomical peculiarities of the extinct genus *Sicatherium*, and of new species of other genera; and concluded by requesting, that in forwarding these medals, the first sent by the Geological Society to India, that Captain Cautley and Dr. Falconer should be assured of the unabated interest which the Society take in their researches, together with ardent hopes for their future welfare and success. Dr. Boyle, in reply, said, he did feel high gratification at

being made the medium of transmitting to India the distinguished honours conferred by the Geological Society on his friends, Captain Cautley and Dr. Falconer; as he could himself bear testimony to the zeal which animated those gentlemen in the prosecution of geological researches. Having had opened to their investigation one of the most extensive deposits of fossil remains, and being without books, without museum, or the aid of skilful naturalists, they had, undeterred by difficulties, proceeded to the examination of extinct forms, by making a museum of the skeletons of the animals existing in the forests, the rivers, and the mountains, of northern India. By these means they had come to decisions which had been approved of by anatomists, both of London and Paris. He expressed, also, his assurance, that the approbation of the Geological Society would not only stimulate them to fresh exertions, but excite others to follow their example. Thanks were then voted to the retiring president, Mr. Lyell, and members of the council, Sir Alexander Crichton, M.D.; W. T. Hamilton, Esq.; Viscount Oxmantown; and Lieut.-Colonel Sykes. On proposing the thanks of the Society to Sir Philip Egerton, retiring from the office of vice-president, Mr. Whewell alluded to the loss just sustained by the Society in the lamented decease of Dr. Turner, who had also been one of the vice-presidents. He could not trust himself, so recent had been the event, to express his feelings; but he was convinced that it was not necessary to allude to the high scientific attainments of their deceased vice-president and friend, or to remind the Society of the high moral excellences of Dr. Turner. The scrutineers having examined the balloting-glasses, then reported, that the following gentlemen had been elected the officers and council for the ensuing year:—President, Rev. William Whewell. Vice-presidents, Rev. William Buckland, D.D.; Wm. Henry Fitton, M.D.; George Bellas Greenough, Esq.; Roderick Impey Murchison, Esq. Secretaries, Robert Hutton, Esq.; Professor Royle, M.D. Foreign Secretary, H. T. De la Beche, Esq. Treasurer, John Taylor, Esq. Council, F. Baily, Esq.; W. J. Broderick, Esq.; W. Clift, Esq.; Viscount Cole, M.P.; Charles Darwin, Esq.; Professor Daubeny, M.D.; Sir P. Grey Egerton, Bart. M.P.; H. Hallam, Esq.; Leonard Horner, Esq.; C. Lyell, Jun. Esq.; Marquess of Northampton; W. Parish, Jun. Esq.; Rev. Professor Sedgwick; Henry Warburton, Esq. M.P. During the meeting in the morning, and at that in the evening, Mr. Lyell delivered the annual address, in which he took notice of the labours of those fellows which the Society had lost during the year 1836, as well as of the memoirs which had been read, and of the progress which the science has made since the last anniversary.

#### STATISTICAL SOCIETY.

SIR C. LEMON in the chair.—A valuable paper, furnished by Lord Glenelg, being the report for 1835 of the committee of correspondence, appointed at a general meeting of the inhabitants of the colony of Western Australia, on the present state of that settlement, was read. The committee sat in the church of Perth on the 16th of January, 1836, and these are notes of their proceedings, forwarded to England as a correct and concentrated view of the actual statistics of the colony to the present time. The report may be said to be divided into fifteen heads: the first embraces Mr. Bland's report on sheep, cattle, and horses, in York

district. The number of sheep at present is about 5000, much the greater proportion of which are ewes and ewe-lambs, all in excellent condition as to carcass, and tolerably free from *seab*, with the exception of a few lately arrived from the Swan River, which are infected by intermixing with flocks imported during the last season from Van Diemen's Land. The sheep from this district are of a very coarse-woollen large-framed description; but, as they have been crossed entirely with pure Merino rams, their wool will, of course, improve every year. The number of pure Merinos is about 800 or 900 ewes and ewe-lambs of last year, constituting all or nearly all the unmixed and genuine descendants of thirty-six ewes and rams imported into England by his majesty George the Third in the year 1791, and kept pure ever since. They were a present from the King of Spain to that monarch. The extent of good land in the York district it is impossible at present to ascertain; it is known, however, to extend about forty-eight miles in a straight line, and, in width, about two or three miles on either side. 2d. Messrs. Bull, Dermott, and Yule's report on the agriculture of district of the Swan and Canning. The number of acres under cultivation in barley, oats, and potatoes, in 1834, was 918; in 1835, the number of acres was 1571, shewing an increase of 661. The increase in sheep and horned cattle was in a corresponding ratio. Next follows No. 3. Report on horticultural produce; embracing the vine, the olive, the brown-fig, from the Cape of Good Hope, the peach, the banana, melon, cucumber, potatoe, &c., by Mr. Drummond. No. 4. Report on vegetation and fruit, continuation, as it were, of the foregoing, by Mr. Cook. Of vegetables, are all those found in the English kitchen-garden. The apple, pear, plum, orange, lemon, and other trees, have been introduced, and are in a healthy and thriving state. The price of vegetables, at the time of their first production after the settlement of the colony, was very high; the first cabbages were sold at 2s 6d. each; they are now sold for one penny, or a penny-halfpenny each; are of large size, full-hearted, and of excellent quality; and the same decrease in price is noted of the other vegetables and fruits. The large vine in the government garden has been in its present situation about four years. Two years ago it made shoots upwards of thirty feet in length, in different directions, and covered an area of more than sixty feet: it has borne, in one season, as much as one cwt. of grapes; but not having been cultivated with a view of producing fruit, but of cuttings for propagation, it has been cut down very close every year. Had it been trained for fruit, it is supposed it would have yielded upwards of 3 cwt. yearly. There can be no doubt that this will prove a fine country for the growth of the vine, — soil and climate being both in its favour. Fruit-trees, of most kinds, are of much more rapid growth than in England. 5. On the supply and price of provisions, chiefly meat and bread, by Mr. Smith. From this gentleman's report we gather, that the supply of butcher's meat, in 1829, 1830, 1831, and, indeed, nearly up to 1834, was but indifferent. In that year a considerable number of horned cattle were imported by Captain Taylor, and sold at 15/- per head. In 1835, the retail price was from 1s. to 1s. 6d. per pound, the market being principally supplied with colonial stock. The contract price for the last quarter, for the troops, was 1s. 2d. per pound. Colonial bred meat is of excellent quality and flavour. Beef and mutton

ton, especially the former, is abundant. The price of meat was frequently 1s. 8d. per lb.; sometimes 2s. At one period of severe privation, such was the want of food, that condemned salt beef, which had been buried as unfit for food, was disinterred and sold for 1s. per lb., this was in the year 1831. A tolerably well-organized party of hunters, with several excellent dogs, established themselves in 1834, within a few miles of Fremantle, and furnished a good, although not a constant, supply of kangaroos, ducks, and teal; the price of the former gradually diminishing as the supply of mutton and beef increased. The supply of fish is generally good, as well at Perth as at Fremantle; a shilling or eighteen pence being sufficient for the purchase of a large fish. The supply of bread or flour has been equally precarious with that of butcher's meat. At times the market is overstocked with imported flour, selling at 2d.—at other times, difficult to be bought at 1s. per lb. At one period, a substitute for bread was sold at 1s. per lb. composed of a small quantity of bad flour, rice, and potatoes. For the last fifteen months, however, the supply has been abundant, and the price steady; generally from 3d. to 4d. per lb. No. 6. Account of shipping, exports, and imports at Fremantle, by Captain Scott, harbour-master. During the last seven years, the total number of ships, arriving at Fremantle, was 163; tonnage, 32,200; value of cargo left at Fremantle, 394,005/-; number of passengers, 2,281; and on this head there is a remarkable variation, in point of numbers, in some years: for example, the number of passengers arriving in 1830, was no fewer than 1125; while, in 1832, they were only 14; horses landed, 133; cattle, 562; sheep, 10,641; goats, 69; pigs, 105; dogs, 69. The exports, in 1834, were 37 bales of wool; in 1835, 50 do. No. 7 is the report on the number and condition of mechanics, artisans, and value of houses and buildings, by Mr. Trig: from which we learn, that the number of artisans at present in the colony is about 95; one-third of whom are engaged, though not constantly, in their respective trades; the remaining two-thirds are variously employed. The value of buildings at Fremantle, and at Perth, may fairly be estimated at 30,000/. This amount does not much exceed one-half of the actual cost. 8. Census of Western Australia in 1826. The total amount of population in Australia, exclusive of the districts of King George's Sound, Augusta, and the Murray district, at the census, on the 1st of January, 1836, was 1549. The 9th head embraces the rather anomalous subjects, on the state of crime, places of worship, and schools, by W. H. Mackie, Esq. chairman of the quarter sessions. On the return of crimes, for which we have not space (not that it is either very frightful in extent or character), Mr. Mackie observes, that the great excess in the number of felonies over that of misdemeanours is chiefly to be ascribed to the following cause:—"the expenses of all public prosecutions fall entirely on the colonial revenue, and are considerable, in consequence of prosecutors and witnesses being allowed for loss of time and travelling expenses, according to colonial rates, which has been found necessary to secure their attendance in court." There is but one clergyman of the established church in the colony, namely, the colonial chaplain. Divine service, even on Sundays, is confined to Perth. There is also a chapel at Perth, built by a small association, consisting chiefly of Wesleyan Methodists. Next follows No. 10. Report on climate, meteorology, and diseases,

by Joseph Harris, Esq. colonial surgeon, from which we need make no extract. Nos. 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15, embrace, respectively, the list of the government officers, with their salaries; account of land granted by government to settlers up to 1834 (1,529,721 acres); tabular exhibitions of the nature and value of property, and sundry particulars concerning the establishment of a bank, the available security offered for which by the colonists, after deducting all incumbrances, amounts to 219,739/- A short conversation followed the reading of the paper, and four members were elected into the Society; after which the meeting adjourned.

*Society of Arts.*—On Wednesday week, Mr. R. Twining in the chair, the Secretary delivered the third part of his interesting discourses on the metallurgical history of iron.

#### LITERARY AND LEARNED. UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

OXFORD, 16th February.—The following degrees were conferred:

*Bachelors of Arts.*—A. Capel, Balliol College; T. Forstes, Exeter College; Grand Compounds.

February 18.—Mr. George Marshall, of Christ Church, was elected a Scholar on the foundation of Lord Craven. This scholarship is open to all independent members of the University who have not proceeded to their B.A. degree.

#### ROYAL SOCIETY.

THE Earl of Burlington in the chair.—A portion of a paper by Dr. Marshall Hall, On the functions of the medulla oblongata, and the medulla spinalis, and the excito-motor system of the nerves, was read. The author proves by experiment that sensibility is destroyed by the division of the spinal marrow; and that motor power remains after sensation, and even the functions of the brain, are destroyed. The author holds this opinion in opposition to the preconceived notions of some of the chief continental physiologists. But we trust that our report of Mr. Faraday's admirable development of the subject under the head of The Royal Institution, will be found so satisfactory as to supersede the necessity of following our notes of Dr. Marshall Hall's paper in this place.

#### SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

THE Earl of Aberdeen in the chair.—Mr. C. R. Smith exhibited a collection of very curious remains of Roman pottery and glass. Mr. Kempe communicated some observations on the mass of the Roman road from Silchester to Staines, made by the students of the Military College at Sandhurst, and recently exhibited to the Society, as proving Staines to be the Pontes of Antoninus, and Silchester the ancient Calleva Atrebatum. He was of opinion that Silchester, or Silechester, as it was formerly written, was a mere *Saxonizing* of Silicis Castrum, and that both the appellations had their root in the Greek *χαλέψ*, a flat. He exhibited plans, from the King's Library, in the British Museum, of the Roman city of Silchester, and of bathes found there. Sir Henry Ellis communicated some historical remarks on horsemanship, and a scheme for an academy of horsemanship in the reign of Elizabeth.

#### ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

FEB. 18th. Sir Alexander Johnston in the chair.—Various donations were presented. The reading of a paper, commenced at the last meeting, on the practice of medicine amongst the Chinese, written by the Rev. C. Gutzlaff, was concluded. This paper affords a curious view

of the attachment of that extraordinary people to ancient habits. According to them the science was invented by Shin-nong, one of the most ancient emperors, who may be reckoned, perhaps, as a mythological personage. This benevolent monarch studied the properties of plants, and made many useful discoveries of their value in curing diseases: his successors in the science have added to his probably useful observations a great number of theoretical rules. They have divided all the diseases which human nature is heir to, into certain classes, each of which is under the dominion of one of the cardinal points; and they prevail in their turns, as each cardinal point is in the ascendant. There is another and equally important division of diseases into the five elements: when all the elements are in a proper degree of equilibrium, the body is in a healthy state; but when any one of the five has an undue predominancy, the part of the body which is under its especial influence suffers accordingly. There are, also, a great number of rules to be observed, on the colour of the face, the state of the pulse, &c. &c.; and in all this the physician is not allowed to improve by his own experience, but he must follow the rules laid down by the ancients. It seems there is considerable danger in departing from this regulation, not to the patient, but to the physician; for, if a patient dies under the care of a medical attendant who treats according to classic rule, the inference is that every care was taken on the part of the physician to insure success, but that the case was, in fact, desperate. If, on the other hand, the same event should ensue when the ancient mode of treatment has been departed from, the physician would risk being proceeded against for manslaughter. It appears, on the whole, that the character of a physician in China is not very respectable, and that the profession is taken up by any one who is unsuccessful in literary or other pursuits; while that of a surgeon is, from the great objection of the Chinese to operations, almost unknown. We may except, however, the practise of acupuncture and the moxa, which have both been in use among the Chinese for an indefinite period, and were, without doubt, learned by Europeans from them. The paper concluded with the observations of a Chinese author on medicine, that, by a proper attention to diet and conduct, all medicine would be unnecessary; but that the bad propensities of mankind had entailed so many evils upon them, that the use of it had become a necessary evil.—The next paper read was by J. R. Steuart, Esq. on a series of ancient coins, engravings of which were laid on the table. These coins, and many others of a similar type, are found in the district from Oujein to Cutch, in the N.W. of India, and are distinguished by several peculiarities. The execution shews a familiarity with Greek art; and the legends on the obverse, though not quite Greek, approach very nearly to the forms of the Greek alphabets. On the reverse, the legends are in a character evidently derived from the Devanagari, and approximating to that form of it which is used by the Thibetans. The heads which are stamped on almost all the coins found, appear to have a Tartar air and costume. The profile is well defined; the chin smooth, and the upper lip decorated with a curled mustachio. The head is covered with a flat-crowned hat, or helmet, under which the hair appears in three long formal curls. The ear is decorated with an oblong earring, and the neck is surrounded with an ornate collar. The author of the paper attributes these coins to

the Yue-chi, or race of the Moon ; a tribe of Tartars who, according to the Chinese annals, aided materially in overturning the Greek Bactrian empire. These Yue-chi, also, extended their dominion over great part of India, particularly along the course of the Indus, as far as Baroach, and the temple of Somnath, in Cattywar ; precisely the line in which these coins are found. This sufficiently accounts for the apparent incongruous character of the coins in question. The new rulers of the Greek provinces would probably feel the superiority of the arts practised by the people now under their sway, and would not be insensible to the advantages of continuing a coinage so much better than any thing they could themselves produce ; while they would naturally be desirous of representing their own features, and the characters of their own language, on one side, at least, of their new money. They would also, naturally be inclined to transport into India a practice of which they had experienced the utility. It is not ascertained how long the empire of the Yne-chi subsisted in India : the latest date ascertained by De Guignes is, A.D. 266, which would give a duration of 400 years from the subversion of the Bactrian empire. — The next paper read was, an account by two officers of the Indian Navy, who were on the southern coast of Arabia in the early part of the year 1835. Those gentlemen started from Gossyrh, seven degrees from the Straits of Babel Mandeb, and made their way a few miles into the interior of the country. By the help of a Bedouin whom they found there, they were enabled to reach a place called Jebel Aaledma, where they found a large cavern, covered with inscriptions executed in red paint. Some of these inscriptions retained the brightness of newly done work ; but the colour was more generally faded. The inscriptions bore, at first sight, a considerable resemblance to the Ethiopic character ; and, on a closer examination, several of the letters were found to be identical. The others bore no resemblance whatever to Ethiopic, but rather resembled many of the forms of the older Greek alphabets, as found in inscriptions. About a fortnight after, the same gentlemen, accompanied by another officer, made an excursion about forty miles to the eastward of their former discovery ; and were rewarded by the view of another spacious cavern, on which inscriptions in a similar character, and executed with a similar material, were found. Copies of these inscriptions were laid upon the table ; but it does not appear that any acquaintance with their purport has yet been made. The thanks of the society were returned for these communications ; and the meeting adjourned.

#### LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

**Monday.**—Royal Geographical, 9 P.M. ; British Architects, 8 P.M. ; Russell Institution, 8 P.M. (R. Bond on Physical Geography ; and ensuing Monday) ; Marylebone Literary, 8 P.M. (Dr. Ritchie on Hydrodynamics ; and March 6) ; Russell Institution, 8 P.M. (Mr. Serle on the Drama.)

**Tuesday.**—Royal Medical and Chirurgical, 8 P.M. ; Zoological, 8 P.M. ; Civil Engineers, 8 P.M. ; Lambeth Literary, 8 P.M. (Mr. Nutall on Roman Literature) ; Belgrave Literary, 8 P.M. (Dr. Lardner on Astronomy ; and succeeding Tuesday.)

**Wednesday.**—Society of Arts, 7½ P.M.

**Thursday.**—Royal Society, 8½ P.M. ; Antiquaries, 8 P.M. ; Geological, 3 P.M. ; Islington Literary, 8 P.M. (Mr. Downes on Steam) ; Russell Institution, 8 P.M. (Mr. Lambert on the Literature and Royal Institute of France.)

**Friday.**—Royal Institution, 8½ P.M. ; Islington Literary, (Literary Meeting.)

**Saturday.**—Royal Asiatic, 3 P.M.

#### FINE ARTS.

##### BRITISH GALLERY.

(Fourth notice.)

**1. Zarah.** F. Grant.—We understand this to be the artist's first appearance in the gallery, and we congratulate him on the *éclat* of his performance. It is a portrait of Mrs. Nisbet, and in resemblance, expression, and energy of action, evinces talents of no ordinary rank.

**2. Peasant Girl of Subiaco, Roman States.** A. Geddes, A.R.A.—But for the title it might have passed for one of our homely clad Gainsborough-sort of subjects. Simplicity is its greatest charm ; but it is carefully executed, and possesses a mellow tone of colouring.

**21. Meg Merrilies.** T. Clater.—To make even an approach towards an adequate representation of one of the most powerfully drawn characters in the late gifted writer's list, is no small proof of the talents of an artist. Mr. Clater has, we think, been eminently successful. The sibyl-like and fantastic costume, the gleamy light which partially illuminates the haggard countenance, and the gloomy and frowning abode, are all in excellent keeping with the subject.

**15. The Fatal Throw.** T. Von Holst.—The spirit with which this composition is evidently designed, makes us wish that it had been placed nearer the eye. It strongly reminds us of the enthusiastic pencil of Retsch. But, alas ! we fear that the lesson which it conveys is in vain. The habitual gambler, and the habitual drunkard, like the moth in the candle, find their destruction in what captivates their senses.

**111. Maid of Athens ; 123. Haidee.** J. Bonden.—What titles painters choose to give to subjects like these is of little importance. Professing to be ideal, they are actually from nature ; and in that circumstance, when they are finely executed (as in the present instances), resides their charm.

**112. Greenwich Pensioners commemorating the Battle of Trafalgar, in Greenwich Park.** J. Burnet.—Though the edge of public curiosity has been taken off by Mr. Burnet's fine print after this performance, it is but justice on our part to repeat the admiration which we expressed of the picture when it was formerly exhibited at the publisher's. Mr. Burnet's talents, both as a painter and as an engraver, do the highest credit to the British school of art.

**78. River Scene.** F. R. Lee, A.R.A.—Amidst the diversity of styles adopted by our numerous landscape-painters, there is none, which bears more distinctly the stamp of truth, in character and effect, than that of Mr. Lee. This "River Scene" is a fine example of his powers ; and its fidelity to Nature will be acknowledged by all accurate observers of that lady.

**88. Evening — Banks of the Stour.** T. S. Cooper.—Under a title of equal simplicity to the last, we have here a picture of English pastoral, worthy of Cuyp and Paul Potter ; and the landscape of the former, the cattle of the latter : and well might it supply the place of those celebrated masters, in any collection.

**68. The Surprise.** T. Webster.—Like the helmet in "The Castle of Otranto," the accoutrements at the door of the cottage naturally create wonder in those who are not, as we are, let into the secret of what is passing within. The figure of the former is a fine specimen of green old age ; and the inquiring looks of the dame are very characteristic.

**72. Piazzelu at Venice, with the Salute Church in the distance.** J. Inskip.—We do

not know much about the Salute in the distance ; but we should like exceedingly to salute the sparkling animated creature in the foreground. It is one of Mr. Inskip's most brilliant performances.

**347. The Village Tinker.** H. Piddington.—There is not in all the gallery a more spirited production, nor one more true to nature. The Tinker is, in all respects, a picturesque object : he is also an epitome of the spirit of trade ; his contrivances being always ready to make tear keep more than pace with wear — or, as the saying is, to make two holes while mending one.

**146. L'Inflorata.** T. Uwins, A.R.A.—We wish our native artists would find names for their subjects in their own language. It is, however, a charming head ; and the flowers which adorn it are a fit accompaniment and emblem of the innocent gaiety of heart that beams in the countenance. This beautiful work is a set-off against the painful, though powerfully conceived and executed performance, which (if we mistake not, under another title) Mr. Uwins again presents to the public eye.

(To be continued.)

#### NEW PUBLICATIONS.

*Engravings from the Works of the late Sir Thomas Lawrence, P.R.A. Part III.*  
Hodgson and Graves.

"*THE Archbishop of York*," engraved by J. H. Phillips ; "Lady Peel," engraved by W. Giller ; and "The Earl of Hardwicke," also engraved by W. Giller ; are the three graphic gems of the third part of this charming publication. In the first we witness the late president's power of representing intellect and dignity ; the second is one of the most successful specimens of his delineation of beauty and refinement ; and the third shews his extraordinary skill in the arrangement and management of ornament and decoration.

*J. D. Harding's Lithographic Drawing-Book, for the Year 1837.* Tilt.

TWENTY-FOUR drawings on stone by Mr. Harding, in imitation of lead or chalk, but not heightened with white. They are executed in that able artist's usual masterly manner ; and are admirable examples for a learner who wished to acquire a feeling for what is called "breadth." We have but one fault to find with this handsome volume. Although the views are numbered, they are without titles, and there is no table of contents. It is evident that some of them are English, some foreign ; but it is rather vexatious not to be able to discover of what particular scene some favourite plate is the representation.

*The Continental Drawing-Book, for the use of advanced Pupils ; being Views in Switzerland, the Alps, and Italian Lakes.* Drawn from nature, and on stone, by George Barnard, Ackermann and Co.

WITHOUT stopping to inquire whether the title "continental" may not be a little too ambitious, we hasten to express our admiration of these beautiful lithographic prints, a dozen in number, which we have no doubt are, as they are described to be, "exact facsimiles of original sketches ;" and which, from the spirit and taste with which they are executed, are well adapted for the purpose indicated by Mr. Barnard. The prefatory hints "to assist the pupil in mastering the difficulties of using the stump and opaque white on tinted papers," are so useful, and are conveyed in so perspicuous, yet condensed a manner, that we were strongly tempted to transfer them to our columns ; but,

on consideration, we felt it to be hardly fair to do so. We refer any of our readers, therefore, who wish for information on the subject, to the publication itself.

*The Widow's Hope.* T. M. Joy pinxt. J. Porter sculpt. Hodgson and Graves.

MANIFESTATIONS of the domestic affections, whether in life or on canvas, are always pleasing; and of those affections, which can be conceived more powerful and touching than that of a mother—a widowed mother—for her infant? Mr. Joy has represented the fair subject of his pencil comparing the features of her sleeping child, her "hope," with those depicted in a miniature of its father; while a tear trickles down her cheek at the tender recollections excited by the latter. It is a well-executed and attractive print.

#### BIOGRAPHY.

##### THE BISHOP OF SALISBURY.

DR. THOMAS BURGESS, Bishop of Salisbury, died at Southampton, on Sunday, at the advanced age of above eighty years; having adorned the Bench since the year 1803, when he was made Bishop of St. David's. Sprung from the inferior ranks of life—for his father was a grocer at Odibam, Hants—the late Bishop of Salisbury is a splendid example of the rank and dignity to which talents and worth may raise the lowly in our free country. Educated at Winchester School, and Corpus Christi College, Oxford, his early learning and abilities recommended him to the Bishop of Durham; whose favour and patronage advanced him in his honourable career, till, more generally known by his great merit, the rest of his upward way conferred a lustre on those who promoted him to the highest sacred offices.

In this brief record, we will not attempt to enumerate the multitude of his eminent literary productions. From 1780, when he published "Benton's Pentalogia," to within a very few years, he was an incessant labourer in literature of the most elevated class; and, latterly, paid great attention to the Hebrew, not only as a language, but especially for his elucidation of the celebrated disputed text of St. John, in which he took the warmest interest.

The Royal Society of Literature is principally, almost wholly, indebted to the Bishop of Salisbury for its foundation, under the munificent auspices of George IV., from whom the suggestion came, and who endowed it in so princely a manner.

Of his lordship's exertions in this respect, and of his unbounded charity, the writer had opportunities of forming an opinion during some years of gratifying intercourse; and he feels that he does not overcharge the picture in saying, that a better man, a better Christian, one of more genuine piety, one of greater learning, one more liberal and charitable, never adorned the hierarchy of the Church of England.

We remember, in particular, one instance of distress for which an application was made to him. It was of much severity, and involved a large family. The bishop gave his cheque for fifty pounds, saying, "This is rather more than I can afford just now, with other claims to be considered, but I should be sorry if the subscription (some 500L was needed) failed; and if you get more than is wanted from other quarters, I will rely on your enabling me, by returning part, to afford relief to these other cases." The goodness and beauty of this simple trait of benevolent character has never been effaced from our minds. It was the Samaritan of our time.

The foundation of a Welsh College, to provide for the preaching of the Gospel in a tongue to be understood throughout the principality, is also among the Christian acts of this estimable prelate.

In private life he was a model of amenity and courteousness; mingling, in a fine degree, the manners of the gentleman with the calm dignity becoming his eminent station.

His widow was Miss Bright, of Durham, half-sister to the Marchioness of Winchester, whom he married in 1796.

#### SKETCHES.

##### METEOROLOGY.

UNDER this head (having expressed our opinion of Lieut. Murphy's volume, just published, in our review department) we give place to the following letter from that gentleman. We are not sure that it will edify our readers much; but as the subject, *Meteorology*, is one of growing interest and, notwithstanding recent experiments and discoveries, very little understood, we are disposed to look at every hypothesis that may be broached, whether wild or rational. From parts of even the wildest some hints may be taken. With regard to the following letter, the first indicated period, the 5th of March, will, at any rate, soon be here as a test.

*Anticipated Storm-periods of the approaching Seasons of 1837.*  
One circumstance connected with the practical application of Mr. Murphy's meteorological doctrines is worthy of observation: the tremendous storm of wind and rain which occurred on the 13th ultimo, was predicted by him in a letter to the editor of the *Agriculturist*, dated the 23rd October, and which, we understand, appeared in that journal on the following day. If it be assumed that the coincidence was merely fortuitous, it was, at least, sufficiently singular to be remarkable; if, by the result of calculation, and of scientific principles, susceptible of general application, the importance of the discovery to science and society could hardly be exaggerated.—*Morning Post*, Dec. 3, 1836.

To the Editor of the *Literary Gazette*.

London, February 21st, 1837.

SIR,—The report of a paper of mine, read at the December meeting of the Meteorological Society, on the anticipated state of the weather during the succeeding month of January 1837, having appeared in a subsequent Number of the *Literary Gazette*, I am induced—chiefly on the score of its assumed utility in conducting, probably, to the preservation of life, and much valuable property—to request your giving a place in the columns of your widely-circulating journal to the following short paper on the anticipated periods of storm which have to be apprehended during the present year. It was originally intended solely for the inspection of the gentleman (W. S. Stratford, Esq. Lieut. R.N.), as being more particularly referable to maritime affairs, who, with so much credit to himself, and advantage to the service, acts as superintendent to the *Nautical Almanac*; but from its so extensive connexion with the interests of a particular class of society, I have thought it right to give it publicity:—

*On the Anticipated Periods of Storm during the Seasons of 1837.*—It being of the nature of meteoric action in the atmosphere, of whatever kind, to converge to a particular point or focus where it is always the most powerful; and that time, no less than particular locality, is a necessary element in the production of each. Thence it is, as connected

\* of this paper I may observe, *en passante*, that as its predictions of the weather during the month of January proved erroneous, the error was chiefly owing to my having trusted to appearances, rather than to principles: the less excusable, as, on former occasions, I had frequent reason to see the little of confidence which, as connected with the approaching changes of the weather, can be attached to mere appearances.

with the annual round of meteoric action in the atmosphere of either hemisphere, that, similar to the periods of the opposite extreme degrees of temperature in winter and summer, each meteor has not only a locality, but a period more particularly proper to, and connected with, its development, than any other. Some slight variations, both in the times as in the degrees of force with which it develops itself, incident to those of latitude and locality, necessarily occurring in reference to each. And as, according to our principles, the same analogy, though the action be on a minor scale, exists in the lunar as in the annual circle of meteoric action; and that, notwithstanding the lunar action on the temperature and weather is altogether determined, in its nature and effects, by the existing action in the annual circle which, at the time, constitutes its ground; yet that the actions in these circles are, to a certain extent, independent of each other. Thus, though the actions in both circles usually concur in the production of extreme meteoric results in the atmosphere, that, at particular seasons, the lunar action, of itself, originates storm, equally as the other meteors connected with the latter: thence the necessity of distinguishing between the storms of the annual circle, connected with the changes of the seasons, and those which are more properly induced by the lunar action; or of dividing this meteor into opposite classes—annual and lunar. Of the former, or storms of the annual circle, and which, as the actions which induce them, are the most violent of the year: as connected with the approaching seasons of 1837, the first (or those connected with the vernal equinox) may be expected to set in on the 5th of March, and, according to appearances, with much violence: the usual period of their continuance, when violent, being three days. The second of these storm periods, being that incident to the transit of summer temperature, and the least violent of those which properly belong to the actions connected with the changes of the seasons in the annual circle, may be expected to occur on the 14th of June. The third, or that connected with the autumnal equinox, may be expected to set in on the 13th or 14th of September; but, as assumed, with less violence than that connected with the opposite, or vernal, equinox. And, finally, the last, as the most violent of these storms, may be expected to occur on the 27th of November: the chief region of their development, as assumed, being the shores of the Baltic, of Holland, and of the north of Scotland. The real place of this storm period in the annual circle, as in 1836, is the 29th of November, but owing to the change of the moon occurring on the 28th of the month, or day before: this circumstance, as assumed, may have the effect, on this occasion, of accelerating the period of its occurrence by two days. Of the opposite class of these storms, or those incident to the lunar action, a gale may be expected to occur on the 5th of April; another, probably, on the 20th of the same month; another, on the 7th or 8th of July; another, on the 17th of the month, but, most probably, confined to the higher latitudes; another, on the 16th of August; another, on the 27th of October; and, on the southern shores of these islands, on the 2nd of November; another, on the 12th of the same month; another, on the 12th of December; and, finally, another, on the 26th of December, or following day. These, the storms induced by the lunar action, being usually more violent as we approach the period of the winter solstice."

It is not pretended that these constitute the whole of the storm periods of the approaching seasons of 1837, but simply those which have the most to be apprehended. And, as from the *locality* of the storms induced by the lunar action, but more particularly those which occur in the vicinity of the solstices, the periods marked as those of the occurrence of these storms, are only to be regarded in the light of *approximations*; but which, as assumed, will be found so nearly to quadrate with the occurrence of these storms, as at once to shew their connexion with these periods, and the correctness of the principles of calculation assumed in reference to the latter. And, if the circumstance be taken into account, viz. that the only conclusive and *every-day* proofs of the true theory of the world, are those to be obtained from meteoric action in the atmosphere, it will readily appear that, however important to the interests of society the discoveries which have led to a knowledge of the principles on which the preceding calculations are founded—assuming the latter to be correct—that these discoveries are no less so as connected with science: proving, as observed by Helvetius, that all the preceding systems, in reference to the laws and dispositions of Nature in the physical world, concocted by the ingenuity of philosophers, and who never so much as contemplated the existence of such a text, had nothing more substantial for their bases than the *imaginative powers* of their authors. And, as I feel a well-founded confidence that, as on former occasions, the events predicted will serve to prove the correctness of the calculations made by me in reference to them, the better to shew the originality of these discoveries, as that society may know to whom it is indebted for them, and, at the same time, without wishing it to be understood that in doing so, so weak a passion as that of *courting notoriety* induces me to make the proposal; I not only invite competition on the part of the *learned bodies* of this, as of foreign countries, in this department of meteorology, but, allowing them all the information on the subject which they can collect from my published works, where they will find it treated of very much in detail; but, in addition, I hereby offer the sum of 1000*l.* to any individual member of these societies, who, in the course of the present year, will satisfactorily explain the *whole* of the elements necessary to be employed in calculations of the kind, i. e. which have for object deductions in reference to the anticipated nature of the approaching seasons and changes of the weather, equally as of the periods of the occurrence of storm *throughout the year*. Trusting to your liberality, equally as to your attention to the interests of science and of society, in giving publicity to the present communication, I have the honour to be, &c.

P. MURPHY.

Let us add here our late usual weekly variety.

*Weather-wisdom.*—We somehow or other forgot the prophecies last week. On the 21st, according to Lieutenant Morrison, "the sun being in the declination of Hercules, would again cause very cold weather," and he "expected much snow about this period." "The 23rd and 24th, thermometer very low; expect violent storms of wind, with heavy falls of rain or snow." "The 25th," i. e. *this day* (render, look up!) "seems very violent," and we are to have "tempestuous weather and flooding rains to the end." "March is to "commence with cold rains and sleet." With regard to the past, here referred to, the weather has been

extremely fine on alternate days, rainy and disagreeable on the others, but no snow, and, except on the morning of the 24th (which answered the prediction), little of high wind. Were it not for these discrepancies, we should have but a poor prospect, for all March is of dreary aspects.

#### MUSIC.

##### VOCAL SOCIETY.

WE owe an apology to our readers, and the Vocal Society, for being thus tardy in noticing the third concert, which took place so far back as the 6th instant. The madrigals, on this evening, were not happily selected. That by Ward, "Die not, fond man," was never a favourite with us; it is essentially dull and monotonous, and we advise that it be placed on the shelf, and, in its stead, that one of the best, such as "Flora gave me fairest flowers," or "Sweet honey-sucking bees," be repeated a little oftener. "Lady, your eye," performed for the first time, is scarcely attractive enough to deserve a place on the list of stock pieces, Storace's song, "There the silver waters roam," gave universal delight, from the extreme beauty of the orchestral part; and it was sung with excellent taste and judgment by Mr. Atkins. Miss Shireff's performance of "Parto ma tu ben mio" was very unequal; in some parts excellent—in others, much the reverse. Miss Woodyatt executed "Hush, ye pretty warbling choir," very nicely. Mr. Elliott's sweet glee, "Come, see what pleasures," is worth a score of the ordinary run of these sort of compositions. Handel's noble chorus, "Sing, O ye heavens!" was most worthily performed; and Onslow's quintet, played by Messrs. Blagrove, Gattie, Dando, Lucas, and Howell, was a great treat to the lovers of instrumental music. We must reserve, till next week, our notice of the fourth concert, which was too good to be dismissed in one or two brief sentences.

Q.

#### DRAMA.

*Adelphi.*—*Hassan Pacha, or the Arab Leap*, introducing the Bedouins as *dramatis personae*, was produced on Monday, embracing nearly the whole strength of this efficient company, and with scenic effects, which no one but Mr. Yates would attempt, in so small a space as the stage of the *Adelphi*. It was, as it deserved to be, most successful, and will continue to "draw," till the end of the season. John Reeve and Wilkin, as rival *chateâlains*; Lyon and O. Smith, as rival chiefs—one of Georgia, and the other a Turkish pasha; Miss Daly, as Lyon's wife; Mrs. Stirling, Miss Daly's attendant, and a host of pretty faces to constitute O. Smith's harem; Arab and Turkish servitors, dancers, &c. &c.—all added their quota to the amusement which this "romantic burletta" appeared to give to a crowded house. *Jim Crow* continues to jump, and Mrs. Yates to delight as the *Duchesse de la Vaubalière*; and an evening may be passed with as much entertainment and pleasure, at the *Adelphi*, as in the days of old. The diminution of prices at the large houses seems to have had no bad effects on the favourite minors.

*St. James's.*—*The French Refugee*, Mrs. S. C. Hall's burletta, was produced on Monday, and was highly successful. It will add much to Mr. Morris Barnett's fame as an actor in this line of character. His *Monsieur Jacques* was an admirable performance, and his *Monsieur St. Pierre* is scarcely less so. Mrs. Hall's shorter stories have always had a dramatic

turn, and several been most successfully dramatised by others. Mrs. Yates's *Grace Huntley* cannot be forgotten; and we have often thought that Mrs. Hall would be as delightful on the stage as she has ever been in the *Annals*. We sincerely hope that this, her first attempt, will induce her to visit us as regularly on the boards as she has within the binding. The plot is extremely simple, and well worked out; the interest is kept up throughout, and, till almost the close, you can scarcely guess how it will finish. *A French Refugee* (Mr. Morris Barnett) gains a living for himself and only daughter, *Julie* (Miss Allison), as a teacher of music and dancing: *Julie* is seen and loved by one of his pupils, *Gerard Hamilton* (Mr. Saville), and secretly married to him. This deceit preys on her mind till she almost fears to see her father; when, in an interview with her husband, appointing a rendezvous for the night, she is overheard by mischievous girl, *Madge* (Miss J. Smith), who immediately reports the scandal to *St. Pierre*. A scene ensues between *Julie* and him, which ends in his disowning her; but she acknowledges her marriage, which is confirmed by *Gerard*, and she is forgiven. On the return of Louis XVIII., *Monsieur St. Pierre* is restored to France, and all his honours; and every thing is ended to the satisfaction of all the parties concerned: to which we may add that of the audience, who seemed delighted from beginning to end. Mr. Barnett was not Mr. B., but the old Frenchman, and Miss Allison was natural and pretty as his daughter: one or two scenes between them were of a very high order. Miss Smith was quaint and pointed as *Madge*, and sang two pretty songs. In addition to these, Madame Sala and Miss Booth the *Little added to the ensemble*; and Mr. Gardner was clever, with little to do, as *Jacob*, a servant. Altogether, we have seldom seen a piece got up with better effect, in scenery, dresses, &c., and we sincerely wish that *The French Refugee* may be as popular as *Monsieur Jacques* was and is; and, in conclusion, beg to congratulate Mrs. Hall on the deserved success of her stage offering.

*Olympic.*—*The Sentinel* was brought out here on Thursday; and, though the cast includes J. Vining, F. Mathews, Charles Mathews, and Madame Vestris herself, it was not so pointed as the generality of burlettas produced here. It had the advantage of beautiful scenery, and was capitally acted; but we have been used to such hits at this house, that we are disappointed at such homely fare as the *Sentinel*. At the close, Madame Vestris asked so prettily to allow it to be a successful piece, that the audience could not refuse her; and, therefore, the *Sentinel* may relieve guard from time to time with the more established favourites.

*New Strand.*—Mr. Webster, of Covent Garden, has collected a motley troop, and commenced Lenten entertainments at this little theatre. The amusements are too various to particularise; so we shall only recommend all lovers of this sort of merriment, who are not deterred by reasonable scruples, to pay a visit to the Strand; where they may pass a very agreeable evening. Mr. Webster's company reminds us of a copy we used to write at school, "Varicte plait"—tableaux, posture-making, ventriloquism, conjuring, and his own *Wallet*—a table entertainment of imitation and mimicry.

*Theatrical Affairs.*—We understand that, owing to the shortness of the season, previous to Easter, the *Adelphi*, *Olympic*, and *St.*

James's Theatres, have severally had their licenses extended two months. The new theatre, preparing at the Queen's Bazaar, Oxford Street, under the management of Mr. Warde, is expected to open in July, and be open all the year round.

## VARIETIES.

*High Tide.*—On Monday, the tide in the Thames rose to an unusual height, and inundated much of the low lands and many dwellings on the banks of the river. It was full moon at 2h. 23m., within a few minutes of high water, but the tide flowed till 3h. The newspapers state, that an immense number of rats were dislodged from their underground dwellings about Bermondsey, &c. and slaughtered by boys as they attempted to escape to dry quarters.

*Aurora Borealis.*—The *Bath Journal* of Monday states, that the aurora borealis was so vivid towards the north-west on the preceding evening, as to resemble a dreadful fire. The phenomenon, by ten, shifted to due north, and the sky became one vast expanse of glowing red, extending almost to the point over head. It was beautifully visible at Paris on Saturday night, and was also seen in London, but not so finely. In Hampshire the meteorological phenomena are described as having been of extraordinary brilliancy, but not resembling the aurora.

*Mr. Curtis* held his first conversations for the season at his house, in Soho Square, on Thursday evening. The Turkish ambassador, and several distinguished foreigners, were present; and, with the rest of the company, extremely gratified with the sight of Mr. Curtis's acoustic chair, the principle of which was explained. A watch, ticking in the dining-room, was distinctly heard in the library; and we were informed that the inventor had before the Commissioners of Woods and Forests a plan for conveying messages from one part of the new houses of parliament to another, upon the same plan.

*Londiniana (Extraordinary).*—Feb. 22. A paragraph has appeared, and will probably go the round of the newspapers, announcing that the excavators employed on a new sewer in Wardour Street, Soho, had discovered, 25 feet beneath the surface of the present street, sundry bones of men and horses, Saxon and Roman coins, intermingled with fragments of swords, spurs, &c. Of course we turned our thoughts to that portion of an ancient road, which is now known as Oxford Street, and drew up a body of Saxons and Roman Britons—one fighting for plunder, the other *pro aris et focis*. We repaired, as good historical antiquaries, *instante* to the spot. Let our readers judge of our surprise, when we found, after diligent inquiry among the labourers, that there was not the slightest foundation for the report. A few mutton-bones had been thrown out of the line of excavation opposite Edward Street, where, like the reporter of the paragraph, we found them to be *lying*. In short, poor *Antiquarius* had been *hoaxed*; his walk ended in disappointment. Paragraphs of this nature may be *bread* to the penny-a-line men, but they are poison to an antiquary; for, too hastily swallowed, they might prove *death* to his reputation. We, therefore, give to that well-informed, and too credulous race in general, this salutary caution—“Beware of newspaper antiquities, especially within the bills of mortality.”—*From a Correspondent.*

*University College, London.*—The annual meeting of the proprietors was held on Wednesday, Mr. J. Wood in the chair. The report

stated the number of students at 515, of whom 439 were medical; shewing the increasing value and character of that department. After some discussion, the report, with an amendment by Mr. Warburton, was agreed to.

*Earthquakes.*—Southern Syria, it appears, from recent accounts, has been ravaged by these dreadful phenomena of nature. Fifteen thousand persons, at least, are stated to have perished; and Tiberias, Napluz, St. Jean d'Ac'e, and all the country, had suffered from the shocks. On the 22d ult. a severe shock was felt at Constantinople; and on the night of the 23d, Switzerland, Germany, Italy, and the eastern parts of France, were affected.

*The Booksellers' Provident Institution.*—The following gentlemen have been elected the officers of this excellent institution until the annual meeting in 1836:

*President.*—C. Orme, Esq.

*Eight Vice-Presidents.*—H. Colburn, J. Duncan, T. N. Longman, J. Murray, John Miles, A. K. Newman, R. Sotheran, T. Tegg, Esqrs.

*Six Honorary Vice-Presidents.*—J. Bonsor, W. Clowes, W. Clement, J. Dickinson, T. Gardiner, and A. Spottiswoode, Esqrs.

*Four Trustees.*—The Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, E. Hodgson, J. Nisbet, J. M. Richardson, Esqrs.

*Treasurer.*—T. Brown, Esq.

*Three Auditors.*—Messrs. R. Burnside, J. Eden, M. A. Nattall.

*Twenty-seven Directors.*—Messrs. J. Bagster, J. Bain, H. Bohn, Buckman, Chidley, H. Coxhead, Dauding, Dandas, B. Fellowes, Foss, G. Greenhalgh, Hamilton, Hodges, Huntsman, Lawford, Lewis, J. Miles, W. Marshall, Matthews, Rodd, Ramsden, Sherwood, R. B. Seeley, V. Stevens, Taylor, Stoneman, Walther.

At a meeting of the Philosophical Society, Dr. Clark, the president, in the chair,—*Read, Memoir, &c.*, by Professor Rigaud, of Oxford, on the proportion of land and water on the surface of the terraqueous globe; *Memoir*, by Professor Challis, on the law of decrease of temperature in ascending in the atmosphere; *Memoir*, by Mr. Kelland, on the transmission of light through crystallised media.—*Cambridge Chronicle*.

*British Commerce in 1836.*—English trading vessels are in number, 24,260; their capacity, 2,553,685 tons, and are navigated by 166,583 men and boys. In addition, the British colonies possess 3579 ships, of 214,878 tons, and 15,059 sailors; making a total of 27,859 vessels, and 181,642 men, employed in the mercantile service of the British empire.—*Parliamentary Report*.

*Paris Statistics.*—In 1835, the Parisians ate, among other provisions, 1,120,562 francs' worth of oysters. 9,637 boys, and 9,207 girls, were born in wedlock in private houses, and out of wedlock, 2747 boys, and 2669 girls. In hospitals, the lawfulness amounted to 283 boys, and 234 girls; and the illegitimate to 2327 boys, and 2207 girls: more than one-third of the births being thus out of wedlock. 2459 of these, however, were recognised by parents. The dead bodies of 226 males, and 42 females, were deposited in the Morgue. The total of deaths was 24,792; of births, 29,792; increase, 4528. Throughout all France, the returns give an increase of population, 94,840 males, 71,498 females; total, 166,338.

*Population of Russia.*—A Russian official return states the European population of the empire at 45,550,000.

*The Mining Review, No. IX.*, New Series, conducted by H. English (Simpkin and Marshall), deserves to be honourably named among the useful publications of the day. The extracts from foreign scientific works are particularly praiseworthy, and the geological papers are of a valuable description.

*Selections from American Papers.*—The editor of the *Boston Morning Post* informs his readers, that no paper will be issued on Friday,

as he had received a glorious thanksgiving turkey, which he meant to eat in peace! What would the readers of the *London Morning Post* say to a similar announcement?

The editor of the *Herald*, published at St. Joseph's, Michigan, laments his awful predicament thus:—“His only journeyman has thirteen little impressions to take care of, and has been for weeks past hunting for a roof to shelter them; his devil is sick, and he has all the work to do himself. He begs hard for help, but candidly confesses that he cannot offer many inducements.” It seems this gentleman cannot take it quite so easy as his brother editor of *Boston*.

*Wonderful, if true!* as Jonathan says.

*Weaving in Glass.*—Signor Olivi, of Venice, has succeeded in bringing to perfection the art of weaving a tissue from the threads of glass. The material is susceptible of taking any colour, and the thread is so perfectly flexible as to allow of its being tied; and the tissue, when manufactured, to be folded up like silk. After this, talk of malleable glass if you please;—only conceive a living lady in a glass case!

## LITERARY NOVELTIES.

## In the Press.

*Kidd's How to Enjoy Boulogne, a New Guide for Strangers and Visitors; and Kidd's How to Enjoy Paris, enlarged and corrected to 1837.*—*Kidd's Silver Mine, a Vein of Precious Ore discovered in the Treasures of Wisdom.*—*Addresses delivered by Lord Rectors of the University of Glasgow, with Introductory Observations by John B. Hay.*

## LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

The Oxford University Calendar, 1837, 6s.—J. Hind's Elements of Plane and Spherical Trigonometry, 3d edition, 12mo. 7s. 6d.—The Use of Tablets, by Mrs. Cameron, 12mo. 3s. 6d.—Meditations in Sickness and Old Age, by Baptist W. Noel, 8vo. 2s. 6d.—The Union Liturgy, 12mo. 4s.—Tبارك's German Exercises, 2d edition, 12mo. 3s.—Burke's New Peerage and Baronetage for 1837, 1 vol. 8vo. 1s. 18s.—The Divorced, by Lady Charlotte Burke, 2 vols. post 8vo. 18s.—Neal's History of the Puritans, 3 vols. 8vo. 12. 16s.—Pott's Greek Antiquities, with Notes, &c., by J. B. Pott, 12mo. 9s.—A Practical Treatise on Diseases of the Lungs, by G. H. Weatherhead, 12mo. 7s. 6d.—An Essay on Indigenous Fossil Hy- menoptera, by W. E. Shuckard, 8vo, with Plates, 14s.—Rev. Dr. H. Duncan's Sacred Philosophy of the Seasons, Vol. II. Spring, 8cap. 6s.—The Coming of Christ, Five Advent Sermons, by the Rev. J. B. Marsden, 12mo. 2s. 6d.—Bishop Hall's Works (in 12 vols. 8vo. monthly), Vol. I. 12s.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

## \* \* \* MEDALLIC MACHINE ENGRAVING.

The following notice has been inserted in a *Second Edition* of our No. 1047:

“\* \* The interest attached to the subject of Medallic Engraving, and the extreme beauty of Mr. Bates's specimen plate of friezes, gems, and Henry IV., delivered gratis with this Number of the *Literary Gazette*, has called for a *Second Edition*; which we have not been enabled, however, to furnish in the original form, with an extra half-sheet of letter-press. By omitting the Advertisements, a Letter from Geneva, Report of the Proceedings of the Asiatic Society, Notices of the Drama, and a Variety or two, we have reduced the publication to its usual compass, and are thus happy to provide for the continued demand, still presenting the Plate with the Number.”

To this intimation we beg here to add, for the guidance of our friends and subscribers *out of London*, that copies of the Plate are preserved for them, and we trust they will take early means, through their newsmen or agents, to secure for their annual volume so admirable and interesting a specimen of art.

In order to make room for a number of interesting learned and scientific reports, and miscellaneous articles, we have gladly availed ourselves of the paucity of this week's publications to confine our review within less than its usual compass.

The portion of Messrs. Southgate's advertisement relating to bedsteads, featherbeds, sofas, &c. was made up in our advertising page, too late for alteration, before we noticed that it was inconsistent with our rules. We propose writing an article on it next week, if we have nothing better to do.

ADVERTISEMENTS,  
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